

The Borough Bulletin

News from the

Guildford Neighbourhood Watch

Fortnight proceeding 27 July, 2009

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Getting in touch

Next time, it's official

Unfortunately, a couple of editions of The Borough Bulletin have been missed this year due to technical or operational difficulties. Next time, though, it's official. Your editor is taking a well-deserved holiday (ah, the joys of paid leave!) and, instead of beavering away at the next issue, will be relaxing with a glass of wine (or beer), a loaf of bread (or a bratwurst), a book of verse (or a trashy novel)... and someone beside me screaming in the passenger seat.

So... look out for the next issue around 3 September, covering the fortnight preceding 24 August. Until then... *bonnes vacances* to all.

Watching the detectives

Car crime increased over the fortnight, with both 'theft from' showing a small jump and 'theft of' a bigger one. However, the figures are a return to 'normal' after an earlier slump, so it's not all that bad... and the 'thefts' from' figure includes the usual crop of stolen number plates, which is linked to people driving away without paying for petrol.

House burglaries also increased during the fortnight as thieves targeted blocks of flats around Guildford town. Shed/garage burglaries also increase and, unfortunately, this is the usual summer pattern. It's that time of year when thieves look to sell on stolen lawnmowers and other garden tools, so if you have some, do take care to lock them away securely. You'll see from the crime reports that padlocks aren't necessarily an obstacle to a determined villain. Caravan owners should also watch out!

NB: because of the way crimes are reported, some of those mentioned above may not be mentioned in the Crime Round-up.

Crime Roundup

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 as when a crime is in progress or someone is in immediate danger.

Ash

Ash South

A thief got in to a Nissan Pathfinder 4x4 parked on driveway in **Loddon Way** on Monday, 13 July, but found very little to steal. The same night, in **Ash Church Road**, put a hole in an upstairs double-glazed bedroom window.

Ash Vale

Quite a lot of (criminal) activity around the Vale, lately. In **St Marys Road**, on Monday, 13 July, someone tried to break in to a Peugeot Euro taxi, but succeeded only in damaging the lock. The next night, though, the owner of an Audi lost a laptop computer and a digital camera from the boot after the car was broken into.

Please, don't leave valuables in the car overnight... it's just not worth the risk.

In **Vale Road** that night, the Chubb locks guarding the wooden doors of a pair of sheds were no hindrance to a burglar who simply broke them off before stealing a collection of fishing equipment. And in **Wharf Road**, during the day, a lone rogue threw missiles at a house, smashing two windows, while three days later, on Friday, 17 July, a bunch of four 'youths' trashed the street lighting along **Wellesley Close**.

Ash Wharf

In **Ashbourne Close**, on Sunday, 12 July, an Audi A3 and a Toyota Hiace van were damaged.

Christchurch

A locked Nissan Micra was stolen from its parking spot in **Cranley Road** on Thursday, 16 July.

The roof of a Toyota Yaris was damaged in **Boxgrove Avenue** on Wednesday, 15 July, and the following night, in **London Road**, CDs were stolen from a locked Vauxhall Astra.

Clandon and Horsley

East Horsley

There were two burglaries in East Horsley over the fortnight. The first was in **Ockham Road South**, on Tuesday, 14 July. The thief smashed the glass in the french doors leading to the sitting room, then took away a flat screen television. Then, during the day on the 21st, in **Station Approach**, a ground floor flat was burgled with the loss of a laptop computer and camera equipment.

A few days earlier, on Friday, 17th, an opportunist stole a packet of cigarettes, a cheque and cash from the cab of an unlocked red Mitz Canter van parked in **East Lane**.

West Horsley

In West Horsley, three cars were broken into on one night – Thursday, 16 July. In **The Street**, a Kia Picanto and a Toyota Prius were attacked: the thief was no doubt pleased to find that the owners had generously left satellite navigation kit and an iPhone in their cars. But there was not very much the owner of a BMW 325 convertible could have done to prevent a thief nicking his licence plates while the car was parked in **Silkmore Lane**.

Effingham

On Thursday, 23 July, one or two thieves removed the door from a shed behind a house in **Howard Road**, stealing two strimmers, a pressure washer and a trolley jack. They carefully left the door leaning against the side of the shed.

Earlier, on Friday, 13 July, a double-glazed front window was damaged in **Orestan Lane**.

Friary and St Nicholas

Central Guildford and the periphery were hard-hit by burglars over the fortnight. The first incident was in **Wodeland Avenue**, on Monday, 13 July. After climbing over a 6ft wooden gate, the thief was confronted with a stable-style door, which was securely locked at the top but not at the bottom. So he kicked the bottom in. Oddly, he stole... a pint of milk.

In **Recreation Road**, three flats were burgled on Thursday, 16 July. In the first, the thief took a gold ring; in the second, unoccupied flat, he caused some damage and no little mess, but stole found nothing to steal; and in the third, he had a nasty but well-deserved shock when he found someone at home.

The same day, three flats in a block in **Stoke Road** were hit. The same burglar? Possibly... if so, he had very little more reward for his efforts than he had in Recreation Road. In one flat, he took a handful of change; in another, a laptop computer; and nothing at all in a third.

The same day in **Gardner Road**, a thief forced the main door at the side of a semi-detached two bedroom house (a vulnerable point in these houses), and conducted a careful search that yielded a small amount of cash and some jewellery. Then on Thursday, 23 July, in **Dapdune Road**, a thief went through a gated side alley to the insecure back door, and then downstairs to the basement flat – where he found and took a laptop computer.

Then there was a clever – if that's the word for it – theft in a pub in **Woodbridge Road**, on Thursday, 23 July. A man went up to three women/girls, sat down to ask for a light, then made something of a show folding some newspaper. Having distracted the ladies, he stole one of their handbags.

Caught on the pub's CCTV system, the crook was a white man aged in his late 20s to early 30s, very tall with aq slim build and short brown hair. He had tattoos on his left arm and was wearing a light blue t-shirt with white writing on it, and jeans. This sounds like a well-rehearsed routine for this thief, so in the (admittedly unlikely) event that any of Guildford's NHW members are out drinking in town centre pubs... beware of anyone doing paper tricks!

Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity ward was also hard hit by burglars over the fortnight and, as in Friary and St Nicks, blocks of flats were targeted.

At block of flats in **The Homestead** on Wednesday, 15 July, the frame of the ground floor kitchen window was bent and buckled by the burglar, but he failed to get in. The following night in **Stoke Road**, the thief made a hole in the bottom panel of the front door. Once inside, he rummaged through jewellery boxes, containers and chests, but found nothing he wanted. Unusually, he ignored some high-value electronic equipment.

At a bedsit in **Stoke Road** on the same night (the 16th), the villain – almost certainly the same man – used the same method to get in, but again left empty handed.

In **Dene Road** the same night, five flats in one block were broken into. Two of them turned out to be unoccupied and therefore valueless to a thief, there was nothing of interest in the third, and in the other two this very odd criminal declined to take some jewellery, a watch and a wallet. What on earth was he after?

There were also incidents on 20 and 21 July in which ladies out shopping in the **High Street** did not pay enough attention to their handbags... and lost them to one or more opportunistic thieves.

Merrow and Burpham

Burpham

In the **London Road**, a two bedroom semi-detached house was burgled on Friday, 17 July. The thief forced the front door, and stole a stereo system and a laptop computer.

Then, on Tuesday, 14 July, a CD player was ripped from a Vauxhall Vectra parked in the drive of a house in **Gatley Drive**, and in **Charlock Way** the next night, someone took both sets of plates off a Citroen C1.

As well, houses were damaged in **Churchfields** on Friday, 10 July, and in **Fitzjohn Close** on Sunday, 19th.

Bushy Hill

A discerning thief stole 15 bottles of good quality red and white from the garage of a house in **Greencroft** on Sunday, 12 July.

Onslow

Overnight on Wednesday, 22 July, someone punched half a dozen holes in the front door of a house in **The Oval**.

Pilgrims

Seale

In **Binton Lane**, a mobile phone was pinched from a parked Citroen Berlingo van on Tuesday, 14 July after the thief smashed a side window.

Shackleford

A thief tried to steal a pair of York stone urns from the front of a house in **Priorsfield Road**, on Tuesday, 14 July. After emptying the flowers and soil from one, he dropped it, breaking the top. The second, he managed to carry away.

Puttenham

Both the front and black number plates were unscrewed from a BMW 335 parked in **Mundays Boro Road** on Saturday, 18 July.

Pirbright

A ball bearing was fired through the rear windscreen of a Volvo V70 estate in **Guildford Road** on Sunday, 12 July.

Send

Send

Conservatory doors at the back of a property are a vulnerable point in any house, which was demonstrated (again) by the thief who broke in to a house in **Broadmead Road** on Sunday, 12 July and stole two laptop computers.

A thief used the same entry point to get in to a house in **Tannery Lane** on Friday, 17 July (in this case, a conservatory window was on the latch). Inside, he deadlocked the front door and took his time to search carefully for the loot – which was two pieces of jewellery.

Shalford

Compton

A despicable thief got into the Watts Gallery in **Down Lane**, around Friday, 17 July, and stole drums of cables and copper piping – he caused a considerable amount of damage as well.

Earlier, on Tuesday, 14th, in **Oakdene Road**, a thief tried to steal a Mercedes Sprinter van, but succeeded only in badly damaging the rear doors.

Stoke

Bellfields

A young hoodlum threw a rock at a Vauxhall Cavalier passing along **Cypress Road** on Thursday, 23 July.

Slyfield

Parsons Green, Friday, 17 July: four canoes together with their oars were nicked from a lock up with an insecure door. In **Woodlands Road** a few days earlier, on Monday 13th, both licence plates were pinched from a parked and locked BMW 3 Series, and on the 22nd in **Old Farm Road**, a strip of lead was taken from the roof of a house.

Stoughton

In **Robin Way** on Friday, 17 July, the top of the driver's door of a Ford Fiesta was bent outwards. This is one of the methods used to get into a car to steal it or from it, but in this case nothing was taken, not even the car.

Woodbridge Hill

For reasons unknown, someone smashed both the wing mirrors on a Rover 218 parked in **Weston Road**, on Friday, 17 July.

Tillingbourne

Gomshall

A professional hit a house in **Wonham Way**, a quiet country lane, on Saturday, 18 July. After getting through a gap between a hedge and a fence, he removed the kitchen window entirely and climbed into the house. Taking his time, he made a thorough search upstairs and downstairs, but the only goods he took were three Freesat decoders... and pairs of new curtains (deep crimson, if you want to know).

Next, he went to a caravan parked on the site, jemmied the door, and took a drum-style barbecue. He also tried, but failed to break in to a freight container that was nearby.

Shere

A Volkswagen Transporter van was keyed in **Pilgrims Way** on Saturday, 18 July.

Tongham

Overnight on Monday, 13 July, a thief smashed his way into a London Hackney taxi parked in **Lambourne Way**, and found a GPS navigation set... and £50 hidden under a floor mat. Not for long, it wasn't.

The same night, in **Russet Close**, a Mercedes Vito taxi was broken into. In this case, the thief got away with the DVD player and satellite navigation system display screens.

Westborough

Park Barn

An unusually sloppy thief used a brick to smash the driver's window of a locked Peugeot parked in **Foxburrows Avenue** on Monday, 13 July. He stole a pink leather handbag containing make up and an empty wallet, but ignored the collection of CDs on the seat... and completely missed the satellite navigation kit and passport that had been left in the glovebox. A lucky escape for the owner, then.

An Audi A4 was keyed while it was parked in **Linkway** on Monday, 13 July, and two nights later, the 15th, the window of a flat in the same street was damaged.

There were incidents of damage to houses or property in **Chapel House Close** as well, on Thursday, 16 July and Saturday, 18th and in **Pond Meadow**, on Tuesday, 21 July.

Woodbridge Hill

Weston Road, overnight on Saturday, 18 July, a small group of people decided to rip the wing mirror off a Toyota Yaris as they walked by. Oh what fun!

This less-than-awesome foursome comprised two men and two women. One of the men had a skinny build and wore dark blue hoody. The second was well built with a shaved head, and had on a white tank top (well, that's what the report says).

In **Aldershot Road**, on Monday, 20 July, someone (in need of a spare part, possibly), unwound and removed the jockey wheel from an Abbey York caravan.

Worplesdon

Normandy

A Citroen Saxo parked in **Guildford Road** had its offside front window smashed on Monday, 13 July.

Wyke

Someone smashed the rear windscreen of a a Toyota Landcruiser in **Elm Hill** on Monday, 13 July.

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 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 630544 or by sending an email to WSGfordNeighWatch@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Contacting CrimeStoppers

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

