

# The Borough Bulletin

News from the Guildford Neighbourhood Watch

Fortnight  
commencing  
24 August, 2008

## Welcome to the official Neighbourhood and Home Watch Website

By Chief Constable Frank Whiteley

As the Association of Chief Police Officers' lead for Neighbourhood and other Watches, I am pleased to support the Neighbourhood and Homewatch Network (NHWN) website.

No-one is more aware of the need for the Watch movement to have a voice locally as well as at force level, as well as regionally and nationally, and I am delighted to have been able to assist the movement in bringing about the representative structure which now exists.

However, it is all very well having the structure, but we must never forget that the NHW works best on the ground - and that successful communications are the lifeblood of the relationship between the movement and the Police.

Finally, NHW and Homewatch members have a lot to contribute in helping to ensure their communities are safe and feel safer.

The completion of the roll out of Neighbourhood Policing Teams across England and Wales offers more opportunities than



ever before for NHW and Homewatch members and the Police to work together to promote safety in local neighbourhoods.

Information contained on this website can further assist NHW and Homewatch members in continuing to make a positive contribution.

Visit the new national NHW site at:  
<http://www.mynhw.co.uk/>

## Government review of the Neighbourhood Watch

The Home Office is carrying out a policy review of its strategy for Neighbourhood Watch, and is inviting submissions from groups who would like to propose answers to four questions:

- How can we make the Neighbourhood Watch relevant and accessible to a wider range of people?
- How can we enable people in 'hard pressed' areas to get involved in Neighbourhood Watch activities?
- What new ways of doing things-activities, publicity, etc.-could be used to boost involvement?

- What are the barriers to maintaining a group and how do we address these?

There is a PowerPoint presentation on the National Neighbourhood and Home Watch Web site that explains the context of the review, and it can be downloaded from the news item ("Government Review of Neighbourhood Watch 2008"), which is at <http://www.mynhw.co.uk/news.php>.



SAFER GUILDFORD  
a partnership approach

### New NHW Web site A government review

#### Crime Roundup

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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 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.

Following a rash of robberies around town over the past fortnight, Guildford's lady shoppers should take particular care not to leave purses or handbags unattended or in a position where an adept thief could 'dip in' - and then vanish with the valuables.

There were also a couple of street robberies, so another piece of advice to those who use Guildford's innumerable paths and alleyways... if you walk along with your ear plugs in and the music turned up loud, there's very little chance that you'll hear someone sneaking up behind you.

## Ash

There were just two burglaries worth noting in Ash, during the fortnight. One was in **Poplar Road**, on Thursday, 7 August, where someone forced a kitchen window - however, nothing appears to have been taken. In the other, a bicycle was taken from an unlocked shed at the back of a house in on Saturday, 16 August.

On Wednesday, 20 August, there was an incident of arson at the toilets next to the Ash Centre in **Ash Hill Road**. A plastic food container containing three cigarette lighters was set on fire, scorching the walls and tiled floor.

Unusually, a campervan and a caravan were stolen over the fortnight. A Renault Master campervan disappeared from **Chandlers Road** on Wednesday, 6 August, and in **Vale Road**, on Friday, 15 August, a White Bailey Ranger 4l series caravan was pinched from the bottom of a 100 yard-long driveway.

In both cases, of course, the owners lost the vehicles' contents, along with the vehicles themselves.

There was an odd theft in **Hazel Road** on 6 August: the stolen item was the tail gate of a locked Mitsubishi L200 pickup-truck.

More conventionally, if as unhappily, a lady who left her handbag under the seat of her car while it was parked in **Wharf Road** on Friday, 8 August, returned to find her window smashed and the purse missing.

In another sign of the times, someone wrenched the petrol locking cap off a car parked in **Richards Close** on Monday, 11 August, and drained the tank.

Elsewhere around the neighbourhood, houses or property were damaged in **May Crescent** (on Sunday, 10 August) and Horseshoe Lane (Thursday, 14th), while cars were attacked in **Firacre Road** on Friday, 15 August, and **Manfield Road** on Sunday, 17 August.

## Bellfields

At some time over the past fortnight, someone broke through an up-and-over door to get in to one garage in a block in **Hornbeam Road**. They moved some old furniture around, but apparently found nothing worth stealing.

But there was another garage burglary in the same street on Tuesday, 19th, when electrical test equipment and steel and copper scrap were stolen. They also took the three padlocks that had been securing the door.

The owners of an end-of-terrace house in **Rowan Close** were less fortunate. Around Sunday, 17 August, someone broke in through the back patio doors and stole a laptop computer and a games console.

In **Laburnum Close**, a Ford Escort was stolen on Friday, 15 August (the three villains were arrested soon after), and a Renault 5GT Turbo was nicked from **Rowan Close** the same day. As well, someone tried but failed to steal a Ford Fiesta in **Weyside Road**, on Thursday, 14 August.

## Burpham

There was a very serious incident in Burpham on Sunday, 3 August. A man walking down the alley between **Coltsfoot Drive** and **London Road** was attacked from behind and knocked unconscious. When he regained his senses, he found he had been robbed.

Guildford's pathways and alleyways are normally reasonably safe... however it would pay pedestrians to use a little more caution until this robber has been caught.

In what may have been an attempt to break in, the conservatory doors of a house in **Oak Hill** were smashed on Saturday, 9 August.

## Charlotteville

Although it had been gutted after a previous burglary and arson attack, there was still something left to steal in a derelict house in **Chantry View Road**: the Victorian marble fire place. Thieves broke in on Thursday, 7 August, and tried to lever it away from the wall, but succeeded only in damaging it.

## Chilworth

A man's Saracen mountain bike was stolen from a garage attached to a house in **Roseacre Gardens** on Wednesday, 13 August.

## Compton

An unlocked detached garage alongside a house in **Priorsfield Road** provided easy pickings for a thief on Tuesday, 5 August. The haul included a petrol powered strimmer, a selection of hand tools, sports equipment sports and a foot-powered air pump.

Some thieves had a nice little erner (sorry!) when they picked up and took away two large urns sitting on iron bases - they tipped the contents over the fence into next-door's garden before leaving.

## East Clandon

A Honda Civic hybrid parked in the public car park next to the Old Post House in **Ripley Road** had its driver's side window smashed on Wednesday, 20 August.

## Fox Corner

Exactly three small stones were thrown at a downstairs window of a semi-detached cottage in **Fox Corner**, on Saturday, 9 August. There were exactly three small holes in the window.

## Gomshall

The offside wing mirror was snapped off a Saab 595 while it was parked in **Goose Green** on Tuesday, 19 August, and the same day in **Tower Hill**, a Peugeot van and a Ford Focus were damaged. Somewhat strangely, the vandal removed the from both driver's side wing mirrors, and smashed them on the ground.

## Guildford

This fortnight has seen more than the usual numbers of robbers and purse-snatchers at work in Guildford Town.

The first victim was a man who was using the Internet facilities in the library on **North Street**, on Tuesday, 5 August. He left his rucksack on the floor behind him for about an hour, during which time somebody opened it and took away his wallet.

There were three incidents on the 9th. A man was hit from behind as he walked along an alley near **Woodbridge Road** on Saturday, 9 August, and while he was on the ground the attacked rifled his pockets.

In the **High Street**, a woman had her purse lifted from her handbag as she browsed a book shop and, in the same shop, a woman had her purse snatched from the payment counter, where she had left it momentarily.

Lastly, a woman shopping in a well-known clothes store thought nothing of it when another customer leaned close to her to reach a top from the rack. Only later did she find that the 'fellow shopper' had taken not the top but the purse from her handbag.

*This is the high season for such crimes, so ladies who shop in the High Street should be wary of strangers approaching them closely, and think carefully about how they carry and conceal their valuables.*

For unknown reasons, someone climbed into the back garden of a house in **Fir Tree Road** on Tuesday, 19 August, and set fire to the shed.

Then there the depressingly usual crop of damage to cars parked around the town. The list includes a Vauxhall Zafira parked at Tesco in **Ashenden Road** on Tuesday, 5 August; a Mazda MX5 parked in **Stoke Road** on Friday, 8th; a Ford Focus in the **Bedford Road** car park on Sunday, 10th; a Mini Cooper in **Margaret Road** on Friday, 15th; a Vauxhall Corsa parked in **College Road** on Saturday, 16th; and a Mazda 5 in **Beech Grove** on Thursday, 14 August.

## Horsley

On Wednesday, 13 August, a house in **Nightingale Crescent** was broken into, but it looks like nothing was stolen.

Two days later, there was an attempt to steal a Ferrari convertible from the garage of a large semi detached house in **Ockham Road North**. The thieves hacked through the soft top, but weren't able to prise the roof open. The damage was extensive, but at least the owner still has the car!

## Merrow

A large house in **Grove Road** as burgled on Sunday, 17 August. There were no signs to show how the thief got in, but he got out with an iPod and a laptop computer.

While the price of metal remains high, drain covers are at risk! One went missing from **Curlew Gardens** on Friday, 8 August, when two men in a blue and black pick up truck removed one from the roadside.

*The two were both white men in their mid-to late- 20s. One wore a white t-shirt and the other was described as having a big built and light, mousey coloured hair.*

A man working in **Elgin Gardens** on Wednesday, 13 August, lost his lunch bag, a satellite navigation system, a strimmer, a leaf blower and two hedge cutters after an opportunistic thief broke into his Renault Traffic van.

Then, on Friday, 15 August in **Epsom Road**, the living room window of an unoccupied flat was smashed.

## Normandy

During Sunday, 10 August, at the car park for the common in **Hunts Hill Road**, a professional punched a hold around the boot lock of a Proton, and stole the digital camera that the owner had left there.

## Ockham

Thieves made at least two attempts to break in to a house in **Long Reach** on Wednesday, 20 August, but failed both times.

## Onslow

A two storey, semi detached house in **The Oval** as hit during the day of Tuesday, 12 August. The burglar smashed a small panel glass on the front door, then reached in to unlatch the lock. He went on to steal a optical and digital cameras, a mobile phone, an MP3 player and an iPod.

Another semi in the The Oval was burgled overnight on 20 August and, again, the thief got away with a large quantity of equipment including a laptop, a mobile and an iPod.

Still in The Oval, a lawnmower and a can of petrol were taken from an unlocked shed on Monday, 4 August, and the following day a thief cut through the padlock securing the side gate of a semi-detached house. There are three sheds in the garden, but no record of what, if anything, was stolen.

Moving on (at last), to another back garden, this time in **Guildford Park Road**, a bag of camping equipment - tent poles and pegs, a rubber mallet and guy ropes - was stolen on Sunday, 10 August.

## Park Barn

For a change, let's start with the fortnight's catalogue of ripped-off wing mirrors, smashed windscreens and scratched bodywork. It begins in **Park Barn Drive** on Thursday, 7 August, when three young louts in a park near the school threw rocks at a bus while it was parked at a stop.

*They were between 10 and 15 years old. One had blond hair and a blue t-shirt with dark tracksuit bottoms. Any clues who they were? If so, you could give them a shock by reporting them to the police - and perhaps deter them from going on to worse.*

We continue in **Southway** on Monday, 11 August, when a Peugeot 306 had a wing mirror detached from the car body. Back in **Park Barn Drive**, on Wednesday, 13 August, someone threw a brick through the back window of a Peugeot 206, and two days later in the same street, rocks were thrown through the window of a double-decker bus.

**Barnwood Road**. Saturday, 16 August. A Volkswagen Transporter van had its windscreen cracked in two places; and in **Hudson Court**, the same day, someone slashed both front tyres of another Volkswagen Transporter. Clearly, someone doesn't like them.

There were also a couple of burglaries. On Tuesday, 12 August in **Woodside Road**, a garden shed was broken into and a petrol lawn taken away, and in **Foxburrows Avenue**, on Monday, 18th, a thief got in to a semi-detached council house, where he found a purse and a set of keys in a handbag... and three different computer games consoles. Did he also use the car keys to pinch the Renault Kangoo that was parked on the drive? Of course he did.

There was another burglary - attempted, that is - in **Park Barn Drive** on Tuesday, 19 August. Not messing about, the thief used a crow bar to prise open a window, but succeeded only in waking the person sleeping in the room.

*This miscreant was a white man about 35 years old, with a skinny build and a shaved, black- stubbled head. He was wearing a blue track suit.*

A locked Ford Fiesta was stolen from **Rye Close** on Wednesday, 13 August, and on Tuesday, 19th, in Southway, a satnav system was nicked from a Honda van, Hey ho... leave it and lose it.

Rounding off crimes I Park Barn, this period, houses or associated property were damaged in **Chapel House Close**, on Monday, 11 August; **Clover Road** on Wednesday, 13 August; and in **Northway** on Monday, 18 August.

## Pewley Hill

A Peugeot 406 parked in **Cline Road** was deeply keyed on Wednesday, 6 August, and the next day a Toyota car was pinched from **Upper Edgeborough Road**.

## Puttenham

An isolated detached cottage in **Suffield Lane** was severely damaged on Sunday, 10 August, when burglars broke in, although nothing appears to have been stolen.

## Ripley

Crooks were unusually busy in Ripley over the past fortnight. For a start, there were three burglaries. An unoccupied house in **Georgelands** was hit on Wednesday, 6 August, when thieves took away more than £500 in cash and some jewellery as well.

Then, two houses in **Rose Lane** were burgled on Wednesday, 13 August. At an end-of-terrace house, the crook(s) forced open a downstairs bathroom window, then searched the property and stole car keys, some small electronic items... and the BMW that had been parked outside.

The second property in Rose Lane was a semi detached house where a downstairs bathroom window had been left insecure. Once again, a number of electrical items and set of car keys were taken... and the home owner's Mercedes CL320. Ouch!

There were other incidents, as well. a VW Golf GTI turbo was stolen from an address in the **High Street** on Friday, 8 August, and on the 17th, in **The Green**, both the front and back plates of a Volkswagen Golf were unscrewed.

The following day, a car battery charger was taken from a Daihatsu Sportrak after the front passenger's window was smashed in.

## Seale

One of a bunch of off-road bikers threw a rock through the windscreen of a Peugeot 405 estate in the dog walkers' car park off **Elstead Road** on Saturday, 16 August, and on Thursday 21 August, a car was badly damaged outside **Diana Cottages** on Thursday 21 August in an attempt to steal it.

## Shackleford

Sheds at the back of a house in **Priorsfield Road** were attacked on Monday, 11 August. The thief got away with a petrol-driven chain saw, and several padlocks (why do they almost always take the padlocks? To secure their own property from thieves, perhaps?).

## Slyfield

A Fiat Bravo parked in **Whitemore Road** was keyed on Wednesday, 13 August.

## Stoughton

An unoccupied two-story semi-detached house in **Worplesdon Road** was burgled on Monday, 11 August. The thief simply pushed out the window pane in the door, reached through and unlatched the door. For all his effort, he found nothing to steal.

In **Saffron Platt**, a burglar used a different method to get inside a semi-detached house: he opened a small bathroom window that had been left unlocked, then reached through and opened the larger window below. The haul consisted of a laptop computer, charger and mouse.

As well, a satellite navigation device was taken from a Fiat Scudo van parked in **Baden Road**, on Monday, 18 August; and cars were damaged in **Ripon Close** on Monday, 11 August and in **Worplesdon Road** on Thursday, 14 August.

## Westborough

An unoccupied detached house in **Aldershot Road** was burgled during Wednesday, 20 August when thieves just smashed their way through the glass front door. The haul comprised an eminently saleable collection of electronic kit including computers, TVs and games consoles.

The day before, a graffitist sprayed a zig zag line along the front wall of a house in **Gloucester Road**.

## Weymount

A satellite navigation system was stolen from a Ford Fiesta parked in **The Mount** on Saturday, 9 August.

## Wood Street

There were a couple of incidents of criminal damage to property in Wood Street during the past fortnight. One was at a house in **Oak Hill**, on Friday, 8 August, when a group of kids decided to kick in a garage door. Then, on the 19th, one or more vandals had fun smashing a large ceramic plant pot, snapping plants and damaging solar powered lights, and then throwing a number of children's toys into the garden pond (it takes small minds to enjoy such small pleasures).

## 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 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.



**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**