

The Borough Bulletin

News from the Guildford Neighbourhood Watch

Fortnight
commencing
22 September, 2008

Protect your property on the National Mobile Telephone Property Register

It's some consolation that an insurer will replace property stolen in a burglary, but none offer compensation for the expended time, aggravation and massive inconvenience that results when a mobile phone or laptop computer is stolen.

As well, some stolen items - antique jewellery, paintings or memorabilia, for example, are simply irreplaceable.

However, a new free (yes, free) service for registering personal property offers some hope to burglary victims.

The National Mobile Property Register (NMPR) is an online property search system used by the UK's police forces to search for items of property registered with a Web site, www.immobilise.com.

There, members of the public can create a free, private and secure portfolio of their personal property.

Any portable property can be registered - mobile phones, laptops, iPods and MP3 players, large-screen TVs, cameras, games consoles, GPS navigation systems, bicycles or even musical instruments - and there is no limit on the number of items.

Then, if property is lost or stolen, the owner can flag the relevant items on the Web site, which will help the police, insurers and the second-hand trade to recover the property and catch the thief.

According to the NMPR Web site, almost all the police forces in the UK use it, and hundreds of thousands of checks have been run since the system went live. with many arrests and charges brought as a result of the information held on the database.



The NMPR is particularly important for identifying and reducing mobile phone crime because officers can view the handset owner's details and tell if a phone has been reprogrammed or blocked by a UK network after it has been reported lost or stolen.

The NMPR is well worth considering if you are at all concerned about losing your property - either accidentally or to a thief.

Insurance update

Unfortunately, there has been little progress in updating the status of the NHW indemnity insurance policy. Hopefully, there will be more positive news in the next edition.



SAFER GUILDFORD
a partnership approach

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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.

This fortnight's crime catalogue features quite a few shed/garage burglaries, so the usual warning applies: if you keep expensive garden equipment (particularly a ride-on mower), tools or bikes (either kind), it's worth investing in physical security - not just to secure the shed or garage but to make it difficult for any prospective thieves to get in, in the first place, and even more difficult for them to get away with your mower.

With the price of scrap metal remaining high (until the credit crunch catches commodity prices), lead remains attractive to thieves, who have also added copper pipe and cable to their shopping lists.

Still on the matter of high prices, although not reported in the Crime Round-up, there has been an dramatic increase in the number of drivers filling their tanks and driving off without paying - a futile exercise unless they're using stolen number plates, which may explain a sudden rash of such thefts around the borough. It will be interesting to see if number plate thefts and incidents of "making off without payment", as the crime is described, decrease as (if?) the price of petrol comes down.

Ash

A busy fortnight in Ash and its environs, starting with a shed burglary in **Ash Church Road**, on Tuesday, 9 September, where snowboarding and fishing equipment and various tools were taken after the thieves broke off two padlocks.

Then there was an attempted burglary in **Wentworth Close** on Tuesday, 16 September, when thieves tried to force the up-and-over door of a garage attached to a semi-detached bungalow.

A more disturbing incident occurred at **Lakeside Close** on Monday, 15 September: thieves broke in to an unoccupied mobile home through a single glazed window, and stole a Jack Russell puppy.

In **Ash Hill Road** on Saturday, 6 September, someone smashed the front offside window of a parked Vauxhall Vectra to get in, then got into the boot and removed the spare wheel and wheel jack. Next, adding insult to injury, the miscreant used the jack to take off all four wheels - but left the spare behind (apparently, not good enough).

As usual, there were a couple of incidents of damage to cars, including a Vauxhall Astra in **Miles Road** on Sunday, 7 September, and a Vauxhall Corsa in **Maple Close** on Thursday, 18 September. As well, someone removed the petrol caps from three cars in a car park in **Ash Hill Road** on Monday, the 8th, in what may have been an attempt to avoid paying for petrol.

The catalogue of criminal damage to property kicked off with an incident of mindless destruction of trees and hedges fronting a house in **Longfield Road** on Thursday, 11 September. The next incident, on the 14th, was in **Ewins Close**, where something was thrown through a double-glazed front window, and the next night eight three-foot high wooden fence panels were damaged in **Ash Close**.

Bellfields

There were garage burglaries on successive nights in **Yew Tree Drive**. In the first, on Wednesday, 17 September, the lock on one of block of 12 garages was damaged, but the thief couldn't get in. In the second, overnight on

Surrey's silliest criminals

There can be no doubt about the judge's decision this fortnight: the award for Surrey's Silliest Criminals undoubtedly goes to the two men who squared up to each other outside a house in **New Road, Chilworth**, one armed with a Samurai sword and other with... a meat cleaver. Let's see now... a Samurai sword is about three feet long, a cleaver is... eight inches? No contest. Perhaps this award should really be an individual one for Surrey's Silliest Criminal - the man with the cleaver.

The next award goes to the man who, after a few too many drinks, decided to take a bus home. So he went to the depot in **Leas Road, Guildford** (just behind the police station, as it happens), and stole one. Except that he was in no condition to drive anything, let alone a bus, and managed to crash it into an engine hoist and a couple of walls before depot staff corralled him.

The final award should more correctly be entitled "Surrey's Most Outrageous Criminal". The victim in this story was a woman driver trying to pass a group of cyclists in **Shophouse Lane, Albury**. Perhaps because they were on a competitive race, they made it difficult for her to get clear of them. When she did get by, she stopped and asked them (while delaying their ride) "Why wouldn't you let me pass? Why couldn't you be more considerate?"

In response, one of these oh so civilised cyclists - who she later described as "about 5ft 8in tall with dark hair, a slim build, a big nose and foaming at the mouth" - tried to grab her car keys from the ignition and then punched her on the arm.

Thursday, 18 September, two Goodyear Eagle F1 tyres were nicked from a garage set down a quiet, well lit access road.

As well, a Renault Clio as damaged while it was parked in **Riverside** on Saturday, 13 September.

Burpham

In **Sutherland Drive**, on Friday, 12 September, both number plates were taken from a Ford Transit van that was parked in the road, and on Wednesday 17th, in **London Road**, someone smashed the offside front passenger window of a parked Toyota Yaris.

West Clandon

A sit-on mower was pinched from the garage of a house in **Green Lane** on Sunday, 7 September after the thief had smashed off the heavy-duty padlock, and a roll of electrical cable (you get a good price for copper these days) was taken from a house under construction in **Clandon Road** on Thursday, 11 September.

Effingham

A lucky thief scored a whole lot of cash - which he found in a briefcase and men's jackets in the wardrobe - after climbing into the house via a first floor bedroom window. The house was in **Orestan Lane**, and it was burgled on Friday, 12 September.

Guildford

While Guildford is one of the safest places in the country, there are certain parts of town where it pays to be more than usually cautious. One such is **Walnut Tree Close**, where a man was assaulted and robbed on Monday, 15 September. Three men and a woman walked up behind him, knocked him to the ground and then took his mobile phone and wallet.

All three of the male attackers were white and aged between 16 to 18 years old. One was about 5ft 10in tall with short brown hair and a stocky build. He wore a dark coloured jumper with grey tracksuit bottoms and trainers.

The second man was around 6ft with a skinny build and short, blonde spiky hair and had on a white t-shirt with long trousers and trainers underneath. There is no description of the third, except that he was on a bike.

The girl, about 16 years old, was skinny and wore a dark and white horizontally striped hooded top with dark colour tracksuit bottoms. She had brown hair in a ponytail reaching just past shoulder length.

Did anybody see them that night? Does anybody know them? If so, Surrey Police would really like to hear from you...

We (men, that is) think it's perfectly safe, but occasionally one of us has his wallet pinched from his back pocket - just to show that it isn't, really. That's what happened to a cinema-goer in **Bedford Road** on Sunday, 14 September.

A locked Mazda was stolen from **Faraday Road** on Friday, 12 September, and that same night in Tesco's car park in **Ashenden Road**, an opportunistic thief opened

Pack attack in Ash

Among all the crimes reported to the police over the last fortnight, one stands out as a worrying sign of our times.

A man was driving along Ash Street on Wednesday, 10 September, when some hoodies outside the One Stop throws eggs at his Peugeot 306, hitting the windscreen. The driver stopped, got out of his car, went over to the group of about 12 teenagers and told them "You shouldn't be doing this, it's just stupid and I'm not going to put up with it".

At which point, the gang began to get aggressive and "mouthy", using their limited vocabulary of four letter words to tell the driver where to go. Next, in rapid succession, one of the yobbos poked the driver in the chest, another threw a can of drink over him, and a third, the ringleader, stood nose to nose with him. Not backing down, the driver told the group what he thought of them, swore (well, who wouldn't?) and retreated to his car.

This didn't help him much, because the mob gathered around the car and began to kick it. The driver got out again and, as they became even more aggressive, dialled 999, which caused the pack to disperse.

The ringleader of the group was a white boy more than 6ft tall, broad shouldered with short hair and wearing a distinctive white hoodie with a pattern of black diamonds on it. These kids need to be caught, and if anyone has any information about them, please get in touch with Surrey Police, or call Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

the unlocked front passenger door of a Volkswagen Polo and stole a woman's bag while she was loading her shopping into the boot. A VW Polo was stolen from **Oxford Road** on Sunday, 14 September, then on the 16th, both front and back plates were taken from an Audi A4 parked in **Stoke Road**.

Damage to cars... **Walnut Tree Close**, Saturday, 6 September: the rear window of a Suzuki Vitra was smashed. **Rowan Close**, Sunday, 7th: silver paint was sprayed on all four sides of parked vehicle. The **High Street**, Monday, 8th, outside The Farriers: a man with more than a few drinks on board walked past a number of parked cars, knocking the wing mirrors as he went. **Nightingale Road**, Friday, 12 September. The wing mirrors of a Honda Civic and a Renault Kangoo van was broken off.

Finally (for this time) a drunk in search of a party damaged the front door and the rear kitchen window of a house in **Dapdune Road** on Saturday, 13 September.

Merrow

Criminal activities kicked off on Wednesday, 10 September, in **St Omer Road**, where a large detached house was burgled. First, the thief tried to use a garden fork to wedge open the kitchen window. Failing, he went to the side door to the kitchen and smashed a small window by the door handle, reached inside the - lo! - there were the keys hanging on a hook. His haul included jewellery and a silver tea service.

The following Saturday, the 13th, in **Albury Road**, a BMW was badly damaged when someone tried to steal the badges, and on the same night the back fence of a house in **Rectory Close** was damaged.

The thieves who raided a large, unoccupied detached house in **Warren Road** on Tuesday, 16 September, wasn't after anything so refined. Just a 12ftx4ft slab of lead sheeting. More lead was stolen from a conservatory roof belonging to a house in **Ivor Close** the next night.

Two villains, both white men, were spotted in this incident: one was 5ft 8in tall with dark hair, in his mid-forties and wearing a navy blue sweatshirt and jeans. The second male was about the same height, had mousy hair and wore a navy sweatshirt with jeans.

Onslow

It was an unusually bad fortnight in Onslow, with three burglaries over the period. The first was in **Litchfield Way** on Saturday, 6 September, when a thief forced open the front window of a three-bedroom semi-detached house to steal copper wire and some power tools.

Then, on the 16th, there were burglaries in **High View Road** and **Old Palace Road**. In the first, a detached garage beside a house was broken into and two mountain bikes were stolen. Another garage was searched in Old Palace Road, but nothing was taken.

A bungalow currently under renovation was hit in **Curling Vale** on Wednesday, 10 September, and three mini-motorbikes were stolen from an unlocked shed at the bottom of the garden. On the 14th, a thief stole a low-profile wheel from a parked Vauxhall Astra (kindly leaving the car propped on a block of concrete ... did he bring it along deliberately or just happen to find it?)

In **The Oval**, on Tuesday, 16 September, one of a gang of youths on the rampage damaged a Honda Civic and a Toyota Corolla by ramming them repeatedly with a shopping trolley. Charming.

Park Barn

The first burglary of the fortnight was in **Deerbarn Road** on Saturday 6 September. The thief got into the three-bedroom semi-detached property through an open window, picked up a set of car keys from the lounge room table, then left in the owner's car.

Two teenage villains burgled a three-bedroom mid-terrace house in **Park Barn Drive** overnight on Thursday, 11

September. The got in through an open fan light window situated at the front of the house, and had picked up some home entertainment items from the living room before going into the dining room - where they found the home owner was up and awake.

One of the boys was white, aged in his late teens to early twenties with a slight but muscular build and just under 6ft tall with short brown hair. He wore a hooded dark-coloured, long-sleeved top. The second, also white, was about the same age but slightly built and a bit taller than his mate. Under a baseball cap with multiple colours (like a camouflage hat), he had blondish hair, and he had a thick glove on one hand. Both had local accents.

Tools and bits of equipment were stolen from a Ford Transit parked in **Roundhill Way** on Sunday, 7 September, and the same yobbos smashed a Ford Fiesta's window in what may have been an attempt to steal it.

This pack of three jokers were all white kids aged 17 to 21 years old. All were under 6ft tall and were wearing jeans and t-shirts.

An unoccupied house in **Broomfield** was damaged on Saturday the 6th, and a Peugeot in **Park Barn Drive** had a window smashed on Wednesday, 17 September.

Pirbright

A burglar or two broke in to a garage belonging to large detached house on **The Green** on Sunday, 14 September, but found nothing they wanted to steal.

Someone attacked a Honda car parked in **The Gardens** on Saturday, 13 September, smashing windows and denting the bodywork, but the following night there was vehicular carnage in the public car park in **Avenue De Cagny**, where three cars were damaged.

Ripley

A thief stole tools and equipment from an unoccupied bungalow in **Grove Heath North** on Friday, 12 September. The following Sunday someone forced the padlock securing the side gate of a house in **Forbench Close** and selected a Kawasaki KX250 off-road bike from among the collection he found in the back garden.

A shed behind a house in **Georgelands** was damaged at some time before Saturday, 13 September, and a driver had a severe attack of road rage in the **High Street** on the 16th, repeatedly ramming another car whose driver had (apparently) upset him.

Seale

On the evening of Sunday, 7 September, an opportunist spotted a satellite navigation unit in a Ford Mondeo parked in **Elstead Road**, so he smashed the window and stole it. Simple, really.

Send

In **Tithebarns Lane**, overnight on Saturday, 13 September, someone stole both offside wheels from a BMW 520i, leaving the car sitting lopsidedly by the curb.

Shalford

Three men (or boys - there is no description) tried to break into an outbuilding and a shed behind a house in **Horsham Road** on Sunday, 7 September, but had to run away when the owner saw them.

Slyfield

Someone who badly needs a life was standing by **Woking Road** on Sunday, 14 September, throwing stuff at traffic, eventually breaking the headlight of a passing car.

Stoughton

Bryanstone Close, Overnight on Saturday, 13 September, a burglar forced the wooden kitchen door at the back of a semi-detached house, and left shortly afterwards with the home owner's jewellery and handbag. The next day, in **Hamilton Drive**, a thief forced his way into a garage by bending back the padlock's hasp, and went on to steal two mountain bikes.

Earlier, on Tuesday, 9th, for reasons unknown, someone threw a stone through a first floor window of a house in **Shepherds Hill**.

It was not a good fortnight for car owners in Stoughton, as yobbos cut a swath of criminal damage throughout the area. The tally includes an LDV Convoy minibus in **Emmanuel Close** on Friday, 12 September; a Ford Escort in **Shepherds Lane** on Saturday 13th; a Suzuki Jimney in **Rydes Hill Road** the same day; a Renault Megane in **Stoughton Road** the next day; and a Ford Fiesta (again) in **Cumberland Avenue** on Wednesday, 17 September;

Tongham

A passer-by with nothing better to do threw a rock and smashed a double-glazed uPVC window at the front of a house in **Elm Lane** on Monday, 15 September.

West Horsley

A slightly incompetent thief must have forgotten his screwdriver, because he had to snap the number plates off a Ford Ranger in the King William IV car park in **The Street** on Saturday, 6 September.

In a similar incident during the day on Friday, 12 September, both sets of plates were taken from a Volkswagen parked in St Mary's church car park in **East Lane**.

Worplesdon

You almost have to admire the daring of this one: a quite brazen thief simply picked up someone's car keys from a table in the White Lyon on **Perry Hill** on Saturday, 13 September, then went outside and drove off in the owner's Volkswagen Golf.

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

Contacting Crime Stoppers

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



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH