

# Reigate and Banstead Police Newsletter



Issue 22  
April 2025

Retail crime has a significant impact on victims, witnesses and communities.

We want to hear from local businesses and anyone who has been affected by this type of crime to truly understand the scale of offending in #Surrey.



## Retail Crime – We want to hear from you!

Surrey Police has teamed up with [Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey](#) Lisa Townsend to launch a retail crime survey – and we want to hear from you!

This is about you and your communities, and working together to prevent retail crime from happening in [#Surrey](#) town centres. These are areas everyone should be able to enjoy, and where people should feel safe.

Please get involved in the survey here:  
<https://orlo.uk/Bhhqp>



## Garage, Shed and Outbuilding Burglaries in the Borough.


During March 2025 a total of 14 reports were received relating to either domestic garage, shed or outbuilding burglaries in the Borough. Burglars have stolen motorbikes, bicycles, tools and garden equipment from properties across the Borough.

Many people don't secure their shed or garage in the same way they do their homes - often using an easy-to-break lock or padlock to protect valuable contents such as a car, bike or lawnmower. An opportunistic burglar will try a shed or garage first because they can find the tools they need to break into the main house.

You can find prevention advice on how to secure your shed, garage and outbuilding at:  
<https://www.surrey.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/protect-home-crime/secure-shed-garage/>

As the weather begins to take a brighter turn, perhaps it could be time to get planting - and what better than ones which can look great and keep your property safe? Watch our video on all things defensive planting here:

<https://youtu.be/4fZQU3KbfwI?si=pzxM1MiDmqnwlhVC>

**Note** - You can receive regular Updates on line as well as the 'In the Know' Weekly Police Update . Follow us: Our Facebook is Reigate and Banstead Beat (Surrey Police) and our  (Twitter) [@ReigateBeat](#)

### In this Months Newsletter

- Page 2. Community Update
- Page 3 Update on Neighbourhood Watch and Residents' Associations
- Page 4. Advice on securing your Allotment

### Feedback

Your feedback on the Newsletter is important to us. Please contact me at [Simon.Morris@surrey.police.uk](mailto:Simon.Morris@surrey.police.uk)

Simon Morris 20789  
Community Engagement Volunteer  
Reigate and Banstead Police SNT





## North Area - Arrests

Two men will appear at Staines Magistrates Court today after being charged with 20 offences committed in Netherne-on-the-Hill, Purley, Epsom and Banstead including conspiracy to commit burglary, conspiracy to steal motor vehicles and conspiracy to steal from motor vehicles.

Tony Grant, of Carshalton, was recalled to prison for breach of his licence conditions and awaiting his appearance at court.

Jay Meechan, also of Carshalton, has been bailed to appear at court today alongside Tony Grant.

## Horley



On Sunday 22 March, PCSO Jacqui Parnell and PC Camilla Eyre along with Borough Commander Inspector Jon Vale and Chief Inspector Alex Maquire joined the local Muslim community at the Gatwick Islamic Centre as they broke their fast during Ramadhan.

Jacqui said: 'In my role as Horley PCSO, I look after The Gatwick Islamic Centre in Horley Town and have built a close working relationship with the Muslim community over the past decade. We were invited to break the evening fast, known as Iftaar, and were made to feel very welcome. We enjoyed traditional food and spent the evening strengthening our connection so we can better understand and serve our community'.



## Be In the Know!

You can sign up to [In the Know](#) to find out what is happening in your area: witness appeals, crime updates, crime prevention advice and news. This also includes the weekly Crime Update from Reigate and Banstead, Safer Neighbourhood Team

### 'In the Know' in March 2025

Apart from our Weekly Police Update and Monthly Newsletter, these are the Surrey Police reports posted on 'In the Know' during March 2025. If you missed any of the reports, shown below, then please go to the Surrey Police Website. See page 4 for contact details.

- 28/03/2025 Keep criminals out with 2 – step verification - Surrey Police
- 26/03/2025 Do you live in a flat? - Surrey Police
- 25/03/2025 How to keep your van and valuables protected – Surrey Police
- 17/03/2025 Over 35,000 account hackings reported in 2024 – Action Fraud
- 14/03/2025 Keep your vehicle secure – Surrey Police

In addition updates from: Fraud Team, Trading Standards, Neighbourhood Watch and the Crime Commissioner

### 3 Our Community – Neighbourhood Watches Collaborating with Resident's Associations



Back in 2012 I was serving as Vice-Chair of the Surrey Neighbourhood Watch Association (SNWA), as well as representing Reigate and Banstead on the Association committee.

One of the issues we were considering on the committee was how we could grow the number and coverage of Watches in Surrey. One possibility that we examined was whether Neighbourhood Watches could expand the reach of their crime prevention messages by working more closely with Residents' Associations (RAs). The advantage was that both organisations were interested in maintaining details of residents, in particular their email addresses, so they could communicate with them. The problems included that RAs were involved in activities such as objecting to planning proposals that would normally be prohibited for Watches, unless there was a community safety aspect. Also, RAs might typically have an ongoing membership fee whilst Watches most probably would not.

SNWA took the decision to mount a pilot exercise and approached the then Police & Crime Commissioner to see if they might help fund a pilot using a shared membership management software system. This was agreed and I initiated the pilot in my local area of Tadworth and Walton. At the time active Watches were covering about 20 of the local roads with access to about 200 x email addresses. The local RA attempted to cover all 70+ roads with a rather old data base that had been originally acquired from electoral roll data having around 3,000 household details. The RA data base had been updated by their Road Stewards and held between 600 and 700 email addresses but was also known to have a lot of out-of-date or otherwise incorrect data. The availability of membership management systems was quite limited at that time and we eventually selected one that was primarily targeted at sports clubs but which would do what we wanted at a price we could afford based on the PCC grant and funds from the RA.

The pilot was a success in that we were able to manage the different requirements of the two organisations whilst expanding the electronic communications of both to reach a combined total of some 800 active emails. Partly as a result of our successful experiment, the National Neighbourhood Watch organisation brought in a new concept of organisations, such as Ras, being able to have Affiliated Membership of NhW whereby they would circulate crime prevention messages to their members and their members could also enjoy some of the benefits of NhW membership.

However, our actual implementation in Tadworth & Walton did have some issues mainly because we never really managed to fully clean all the incorrect records held in the original RA data base because of its attempt to hold data on every household which also was inappropriate once data protection legislation was enacted.

We have recently changed our approach in Tadworth & Walton after introducing a new membership management system which is both more cost effective for our needs and allows members to enrol online and update their own records if their email address is about to change. We now have a data base including details of some 1500 households with 1100 active email addresses. All 1500 households are members of NhW, whilst about 1,000 are also members of the RA.

The membership management system we now use costs us £300 per year for up to 2000 members and has a free variant for those with just 50 members. I am happy to share further details of our experience with anybody who wants to contact me.

Mike Fox Secretary / Treasurer Surrey Neighbourhood Watch Association

[mike.fox2@ntlworld.com](mailto:mike.fox2@ntlworld.com)







## Information Corner



### Preventing crime on your allotment.



There are a number of Allotments sites and plots in Reigate and Banstead. As we enter Spring the allotments will get busier. Allotments are naturally peaceful and pleasant places, however, because they can often be left empty, especially over night, they can be targeted by thieves and vandals. **If your allotment has a gated entrance please make sure it is locked, especially if you're the last to leave.** Please inform your site steward of any suspicious activity you may see. It is important that if you see it, you report it, as without this information we can't effectively tackle crime. Incidents should be reported using the contact details below.

### Tips to grow a secure allotment

1	Tools should be marked by engraving or etching with your postcode and house number.	
2	Record serial numbers of all equipment and keep it safe.**	
3	Sheds should be positioned, where possible, so that the entrance can be seen from the road or neighbouring properties.	
4	Don't leave expensive machinery in your shed, even if it's locked.	
5	Always lock sheds using a good quality 'closed shackle' padlock. Using bolts, not screws for the lock.	
6	Fit a battery operated shed alarm / CCTV.	
7	Know your neighbours and keep an eye on their plot when they aren't there.	



### Fraud/Scam awareness and prevention talks

As part of our campaign on fraud / scam prevention and awareness, we are offering in person talks / discussions on how to stay safe from various types of scams / fraud, including telephone, social media, banking & doorstep amongst others. The talks are free.

One of our Fraud Prevention Police volunteers alongside Police, where available, will attend in person to deliver the talk.

If you are interested and would like to find out more please contact us at :

[SussexandSurreyFraudPreventionEngagements@surrey.police.uk](mailto:SussexandSurreyFraudPreventionEngagements@surrey.police.uk)

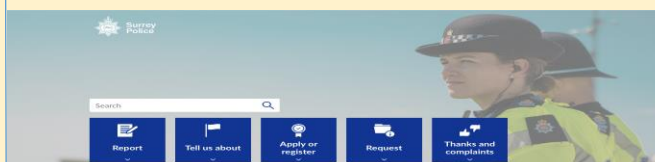
Contact: Simon Morris 20789  
Community Engagement Volunteer  
Reigate and Banstead Police  
Email: [Simon.Morris@surrey.police.uk](mailto:Simon.Morris@surrey.police.uk)

### Crime statistics – January 2025 to March 2025

Offence	Jan -25	Feb -25	March -25
Residential Burglaries	16 (10)	16 (9)	31 (7)
Keyless Car Theft	0	3	4

(-) Actual residential burglaries only, not including - Attempted, Garage and Outbuilding Burglaries

The crime statistics for the last 3 months show a decrease in the number of reported actual residential burglaries. After a recent decrease in the level of keyless car thefts, there has been a further increase in March. Although not shown, there have not been any reports of Catalytic Converter thefts in the last 3 months..



The Surrey Police Website has lots of information and advice. It is there to support you.

<https://www.surrey.police.uk>

### How to report a crime or incident:

Emergency: call 999

Non Emergency: call 101 or report online or via live chat at: [www.surrey.police.uk](https://www.surrey.police.uk)


To contact your local team (not for reporting purposes) email:

[ReigateandBanstead@surrey.police.uk](mailto:ReigateandBanstead@surrey.police.uk)

You can pass information to us directly via 101, online

via <https://www.surrey.police.uk/ro/report/> or anonymously via Crimestoppers 0800555111, <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Follow us:

Our Facebook is Reigate and Banstead Beat (Surrey Police) and our twitter  is **@ReigateBeat**



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