Reigate and Banstead Police Newsletter

Issue 25 July 2025





Working in Partnership!



In a packed room at <u>The Light Redhill</u>, partners from Surrey Police, <u>YMCA East Surrey</u>, the Council, schools, colleges, voluntary, community and business organisations, all came together for a lively discussion about Safer Redhill. There was feedback on the work so far to improve safety in the town centre and tackle anti-social behaviour - including driving down crime and installing new lighting and a mural in Memorial Park. There was also talk about the future and news that next steps will include ongoing funding for youth outreach with the Y-Bus, extra mentoring sessions from <u>Ment</u>4, and a commitment to continue working together to take pride in Redhill.



Anti – Social Behaviour!

Your local Safer Neighbourhood Team were glad to discuss and advise on anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Priory Park last week, joined by the Council's ASB Team!

As part of our anti-social behaviour week, we were at Nailsworth Crescent (Merstham), joined by Raven and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, to focus on housing related ASB.

Do you know how to recognise anti-social behaviour? And who to report it to? When someone's behaviour is causing harassment, alarm or distress, it is ASB. This includes rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour, littering, street drinking, vandalism and nuisance noise. See below for guidance on who deals with the different types of anti- Social behaviour in Reigate and Banstead



In this Months Newsletter

Page 2. Community Update



Page 4. Horley Carnival

Feedback

Your feedback on the Newsletter is important to us. Please contact me at <u>Simon.Morris@surrey.police.uk</u>

Simon Morris 20789 Community Engagement Volunteer Reigate and Banstead Police SNT







Arrests

Four members of an organised illegal drugs supply chain have been jailed and 10kg of cocaine seized thanks to a proactive investigation by Surrey Police's Serious Organised Crime Unit (SOCU). During the investigation, officers tracked the movements of Christopher Brewer, 35, who was suspected of being involved in the supply of Class A drugs.

After he was seen loading a laden black bin liner into his Audi in Redhill last May, he was stopped and found to be in possession of 5kg of cocaine. A series of warrants were then executed at addresses linked to Brewer and his group across Redhill, Horley, Reigate, and Crawley along with stops of other vehicles thought to be involved. One of these vehicles was a hired BMW being driven by Maria Rivas Santos, 32, which was forcibly stopped by armed officers as it headed through London. A further 5kg of cocaine was found in a laundry bag in the boot. Another stop resulted in the arrest of Michael White, 54, suspected of being a courier for the group. He was found with a carrier bag containing quarter of a kilo of cocaine stuffed in his underwear.

Christopher Brewer's older brother, Craig, 38, was also arrested for conspiracy to Supply Class A Drugs. Wraps of cocaine were found on his person, and a further 29 grams of cocaine was found at his home where attempts had been made to flush some of the drugs down the toilet. Around £10,000 in cash was also found at the address. Evidence also showed Christopher Brewer had previously purchased an additional 15kg of cocaine from a Liverpool-based crime group.

All four later pleaded guilty to charges against them and today (2 July) they were all sentenced at Guildford Crown Court.

Detective Constable Matt Earl, from Surrey Police's Serious Organised Crime Unit, said: "These individuals had key roles in a network distributing illegal drugs in the south-east and were living off the profits of their crimes. Through the hard work and perseverance our SOCU team, supported by colleagues from various teams within Surrey Police as well as the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit, were able to catch them in the act. Now, not only are they in jail, but 10kg of cocaine is off our streets and out of our communities, hitting organised criminals where it hurts the most - in their pockets."

Inspector Jon Vale, Borough Commander for Reigate and Banstead, said: "I know the police activity at addresses in Redhill, Reigate and Horley in May last year caused some concern amongst local residents, but I hope it is also reassures people that we are working hard to flush out criminals from our midst and have an on-going commitment to keeping our towns safe places to live and work.

"This is not just about taking drugs off the streets; drugs destroy communities by contributing to rises in other offences like violence and even untimely deaths. Tackling those who proliferate their use has a positive impact on the whole area and continues to be a priority for us."



'In the Know' in June 2025

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

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

23/06/2025	Action Fraud: Ticket Fraud Survey - Action Fraud
20/06/2025	New Quishing alert: £3 million lost last year to fraudulent QR codes - Action Fraud
20/06/2025	Top Tips to keep safe during the heatwave. – Surrey Police
12/06/2025	Your questions answered: Stop search and use of force – Surrey Police

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

³ "If you are a victim of fraud, you are a victim of crime": Meet the volunteers working to protect Surrey residents.



It's the crime we are all most likely to experience. And in Surrey, <u>volunteers based in police stations around the county</u> are dedicated to stopping criminals from exploiting more victims. <u>Police and Crime Commissioner Lisa Townsend</u> has joined celebrations for the Volunteer Fraud Prevention Programme, which aims to reach every fraud victim in the county. Volunteers for the programme work alongside <u>Surrey Police officers and staff</u> to offer education and support to those impacted. They also give talks in the community, working with organisations including Age Concern, the WI and the Surrey Coalition of Disabled People to share advice.



Celebrations for volunteers

During a single engagement event outside a Co-op branch, volunteers spoke with more than 100 residents. Fraud is the most frequently reported crime across England and Wales, <u>making up more than 40 per cent of all</u> <u>offending.</u>

Once a victim has been defrauded for the first time, they are likely to be repeatedly targeted by criminals. Surrey's most vulnerable victims are identified and supported by the Force as part of <u>Operation Signature</u>, which aims to ensure they receive a uniformed safeguarding visit, risk assessment and fast-tracked safeguarding initiatives. Those who are not considered vulnerable will be contacted by the fraud volunteers.

Changing perceptions

Simon Morris, who volunteers in Reigate and Banstead, said some of those targeted by fraudsters feel shame that they have become a victim.

But he added: "If you are a victim of fraud, you are a victim of crime.

We can change that perception by recognising the true impact fraud has on people's lives."

Graham Hutchings, who also serves in Reigate and Banstead, said: "Fraud really can destroy people's lives, and becoming a victim eats away at their confidence.

We want to restore that confidence again."

Vulnerable victims

Through working with the community, both Graham and Simon help raise understanding of how fraudsters operate, meaning fewer people become a victim.

In Surrey, courier fraud makes up almost 23 per cent of all Op Signature cases – those directly committed against vulnerable victims. The crime occurs when victims are contacted by telephone or email by a person purporting to be someone from a bank or the police.

Doorstep fraud – which involves criminals knocking at a person's door to pressure sell or similar – makes up 16.1 per cent of Op Signature offences, while **telephone fraud** is the third most highly-reported in this category

Every victim of romance fraud is considered vulnerable and is categorised as an Op Signature case. Across both Surrey and Sussex, victims lost £7million to this type of criminality last year alone.

"Tireless efforts"

Commissioner Lisa Townsend said: "Those who serve with the Volunteer Fraud Prevention Programme make a significant difference to the lives of Surrey residents.

I'd like to thank them for their tireless efforts to stop more people becoming victims.

These fantastic volunteers come from a range of backgrounds to protect others in their communities, and their work ensures that Surrey Police can reach every single person who reports a fraud in the county.

For those who believe they are a victim of any type of fraud, I'd urge you to come forward and speak to Action Fraud or the police.

You will not be judged or shamed – you are a victim of organised, sophisticated criminality, and we will support you."





Information Corner



Horley Carnival



Horley Carnival recently took place on and what a day for it.

Our officers loved floating around all of the fun, chatting with the community and being on hand to ensure everyone had a safe day!









Fraud Awareness

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

<u>Crime statistics –</u> April 2025 to June 2025

Offence	April -25	May -25	June-25	
Residential Burglaries	15(7)	15 (8)	26 (11)	
Keyless Car Theft	5	2	3	
(-) Actual residential burglaries only, not including -				

The crime statistics for the last 3 months show an increase in the number of actual residential burglaries. The number of keyless car thefts is slightly higher than the previous month. Records show that there were 12 reports of Personal Fraud (scams) in June, including Telephone, Romance and Investment fraud.



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

To contact your local team (not for reporting purposes) email: ReigateandBanstead@surrey.police.uk

You can pass information to us directly via 101, online

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

Follow us:

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



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