

# Reigate and Banstead Police Newsletter

Issue 9  
February 2024



## Borough Commander Update

**Inspector Rob Staplehurst**

This will be my last update as your Acting Borough Commander for the Reigate and Banstead area, before stepping back to my previous role as Sergeant for the central area. I would like to thank everyone for their continued support over the last few months.

Inspector Jon Vale will take over as Alex Maguire's permanent replacement as Borough Commander from 4<sup>th</sup> of February and I have no doubt that our communities will continue to support Jon in the same way.

I recently took part in the virtual engagement event alongside the PCC Lisa Townsend and Chief Constable Tim De Meyer. This was a really positive event and thank you for those who took part. As always we were really well supported, with lots of people tuned in and plenty of questions asked. Hopefully, we were able to answer those issues for you.

I know that visibility remains a concern for many of you, and there is always a desire to see more officers walking the beat. We remain committed to serving the community and working alongside our partners in the council to provide a visible presence in the towns, providing a presence where it is needed most. We will also be looking at increasing the number of "Meet the Beat" opportunities across the borough in the coming months, please keep an eye out for dates and locations coming soon.

Another important issue identified through the virtual engagement event is that of keyless vehicle thefts. This issue is not confined to our borough, or even our borders. It is a regional issue that we are working hard with our law enforcement partners across the region to combat. In the meantime, both this Newsletter (page 3) and the Surrey police web site contains some good advice and can be accessed via this link: [Preventing car and vehicle theft | Crime Prevention | Surrey Police.](#)

Thank you again.

## Crime statistics –

### November 2023 to January 2024

Offence	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24
Residential Burglaries	20 (13)	27 (19)	27 (16)
Keyless Car Theft	12	6	16

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

## What is in this Edition!

Thank you for your feedback following the January Newsletter, nearly all it has been positive. Changes to the format of the Newsletter have been a result of your feedback.

A big welcome to the many, over 25, residents and Community Groups who have joined "In the Know" in January and are now accessing the Newsletter and Weekly Reigate Police Update.

### **In this Months Edition**

- Page 2 - Community Update
  - Sgt. Kiely reports
  - Preventing Romance Fraud
- Page 3 - Keyless Car Theft
- Page 4 - Securing your garage and shed
  - How to contact the Police
  - How to feedback to Surrey Police

### **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



## Sergeant Sarah Kiely South Area Team

The South Team have had some staffing changes over the last few weeks. We sadly said goodbye to PC Turnbull who has transferred to a different force, but we are very happy to welcome PC Eyre to the team. She is being supported by PCSO Parnell, who many of you who live and work in the area will know. PC Scruby and PCSO Dell are supporting the work being done, by dedicating much of their time and effort to help address issues we are keen to tackle.

We have been working hard to address some anti-social behaviour occurring in Horley town centre. This involves working with partners and other departments within the police to collate information together, often using our local knowledge of people and places to identify those causing alarm and distress. We are pleased to report that we have had some recent success with this, and a male will be attending court for breaching a Community Protection Notice that was issued to him. We would urge members of the community to continue to report ASB matters to us, as it really helps us to build that picture and put preventative measures in place.

Horley and Salfords have had several keyless thefts of motor vehicles. These thefts cause a lot of distress to their owners, so we ask that people remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to us. The vehicles are stolen very quickly, but we believe many are then stopped nearby so that the offenders can change the plates. It's really important that theft of licence plates are also reported to us. We are putting a lot of work in to piece the bits of the jigsaw together, and will be requesting support from specialised departments to assist us in our efforts of preventing and detecting crime of this type.



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

## Romance Fraud



### Help Protect yourself from Scams

Being scammed can be a harrowing experience that can have a long-lasting impact on wellbeing. Many romance scams never get reported because of the victim's embarrassment but it is important to remember that these scammers target a number of people and have been doing it for years.

**Details:** Free webinar on **Tuesday 6 February at 10am**, focusing on how to spot and stop a scam, including essential information on how to stay safe when online dating.

This is free for anyone to attend regardless of where they live.

Register here: [Scams Awareness & Staying Safe from Romance Fraud \(BSL available\) Tickets, Tue 6 Feb 2024 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

News article: [Trading Standards take a stand against romance fraud - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](#)

### FREE WEBINAR

Scams Awareness & Staying Safe from **#RomanceFraud**

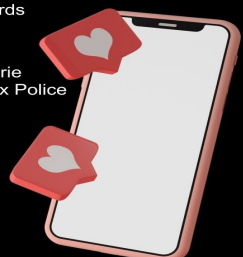


**Host & Speaker 1**  
Linda Crowley  
Trading Standards



**Speaker 2**  
Bernadette Lawrie  
Surrey & Sussex Police

**6 February 2024**  
10am to 11.30am



 BSL & live subtitles available





## Your car could be at risk

Thieves are increasingly using technology to steal keyless cars.

*Thank you to Epsom and Ewell Police for this article.*



### What is a keyless car?

Cars with keyless entry unlock automatically when the key fob is within range. A keyless start system allows the car to be started at the push of a button. Keyless cars have one or both of these technologies.

In Surrey, most keyless cars are stolen from driveways overnight, with higher value cars most commonly targeted, including Land Rovers (especially Range Rover models), BMWs and Mercedes, however, all keyless cars are at risk.

Help to protect your car with a few extra security measures:

- ✓ Use a steering wheel lock, especially overnight. A steering wheel lock can't be overcome by digital technology and also acts as a visual deterrent to would-be thieves.
- ✓ Store your keys, including any spares, in a signal blocking pouch (also known as a Faraday bag). These pouches are designed to prevent thieves boosting the signal from your key to trick your car into unlocking. Seams can weaken over time so it's important to check regularly that the pouch is working.
- ✓ Ensure any inbuilt trackers are activated. If you would like to further invest in security measures, consider an aftermarket tracker or immobiliser. Your car dealership can help you with this.

As with any additional security for vehicles, try to purchase devices that are:

- Thatcham Quality Assured – [www.thatcham.org](http://www.thatcham.org)
- Sold Secure Tested – [www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com)
- Secured by Design – [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com)

- Is a theft in progress? Call 999
- Is it non-urgent? Report online at [surrey.police.uk](http://surrey.police.uk) or call 101
- For more advice, visit:  
[surrey.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe/](http://surrey.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe/)

**Please Report the theft of Licence Plates, as they are often used in car thefts. (contact details on page 4)**



## Information Corner



### Spotlight

## How Secure is Your Shed or Garage?

First off, check that your insurance covers the contents of your shed or garage.

Take a look at your shed and consider how you would break in. It's worth having a good padlock on the door with no exposed screws. Pay attention to hinges, as these are sometimes easily removable. If you have windows then these could be vulnerable unless they're secured with wire mesh or grills. In addition, keep it locked at all times.

**Alarm it** - They look low key but they respond to movement or door contact with an extremely loud siren.

Lock it, hide it or mark it.

Don't give them the opportunity or the tools to commit a crime. Lock everything away securely. Tools can be locked inside a locker or box or secured with a chain.

Secure your bike to the ground or a lockable stand within a locked shed or garage. Visit [Sold Secure](#) to search for ground anchors and other locks designed to fix to floors and walls.

It's always worth draping an old sheet or blanket over the top of mowers or bikes to keep them covered from view. Although it might sound like stating the obvious, never leave your garage or shed door unlocked if you're not around.

Property marking your items is advisable and some tools can be painted with your name or postcode. Forensic marking is also an option.

A locksmith belonging to the [Master Locksmiths Association](#) can advise you on the most secure shed and garage door security. They can also help you install it. Most also provide full home security surveys.

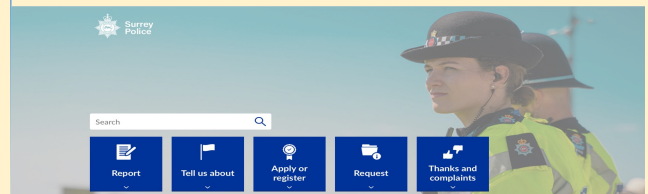
The top five most common items stolen from sheds

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. Bikes            | 2. Mowers      |
| 3. Sports equipment | 4. Power tools |
| 5. Garden tools     |                |

## Feedback

Have you had a good experience with our force? A bad one? Here you can tell us what we're doing well and where we need to improve. Say thanks, make a complaint or just share your thoughts and suggestions. Use the link and choose from the options to get started.

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



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](http://www.surrey.police.uk)

To contact your local team (not for reporting purposes) email: [@surrey.pnn.police.uk](mailto:@surrey.pnn.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](#)

Contact: Simon Morris 20789

Community Engagement Volunteer

Reigate and Banstead Police

Email: [Simon.Morris@surrey.police.uk](mailto:Simon.Morris@surrey.police.uk)



**SURREY  
POLICE**

*With you, making  
Surrey safer*

[www.surrey.police.uk](http://www.surrey.police.uk)