Dear Neighbourhood Watch Members

Car Number Plate Theft (Registration Plate Theft) is a growing and worrying problem, with vans and other commercial vehicles also being targets. You will read in this Bulletin of a number of incidents in the Tandridge Area over the past two weeks.

It takes just a few seconds to unscrew the plates held on with conventional screws, and thieves often carry out this simple crime in places like supermarket car parks, while you are buying a lunchtime sandwich or doing your weekly shop.

Victims can suddenly find themselves faced with unwelcome and unearned fines and prosecutions for a whole raft of vehicle related crimes, ranging from speeding fines and parking tickets to congestion charges. 90 percent of "drive offs" from petrol stations involve vehicles using false or stolen number plates.

One of the factors fuelling the rise in car number plate theft, is the tighter control of the issue of new or replacement number plates via authorised dealers.

One simple way to protect your car number plates against unauthorised removal, is to replace the existing screws holding the plates in position, with
one way security screws. These screws are a straight replacement for the existing conventional number plate screws, and can be inserted using a normal flat blade screwdriver, so you won't need to invest in special tools. The security screw is cleverly designed with a drive face only, so it is simple to do up, but if you try to undo it, the screwdriver simply slips off the screw head.

Reply on the Safer Team email if you would like a set of security screw fixings.

Dan Gutierrez
Tandridge Safer Neighbourhood Inspector

If your area is not referred to below it is because we have not been informed of the crime or it has not been affected by reported crime in the categories below. Feedback from you will help to achieve the most appropriate circulation of information.

CRIME REPORTS IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

April 12th – April 25th

Thank you to the member of the public that found a rucksack in Caterham last week. It contained jewellery that was stolen from a burglary in Tupwood Lane last year. The criminals had already been caught and sent to prison. To top it off the victim now has the jewellery back.

Lingfield, Dormansland, Felbridge, Edenbridge and Blindley Heath

Theft

Dormans Road, Dormansland. Between 19.00 April 22nd and 06.00 April 23rd farmhouse gates and a bar were stolen from a property (ref 45180042037).

Burglary Residential including sheds and garages

Birch Grove, Felbridge. Between 10.00 and 16.12 April 24th the double glazed glass to a UPVC door was smashed and the key left inside the door was then used to open it. It appears the offender was disturbed as jewellery was left lying inside the house and only a set of keys were stolen (ref 45180042600).

Vehicle Crime

Station Road, Lingfield – Criminal Damage. Between 18.30 and 19.20 April
12th the rear window of a vehicle was smashed (ref 45180038021).

**Racecourse Road, Lingfield – Theft.** Between 19.30 April 13th and 07.30 April 14th a White Range Rover Evoke index GP09HOY was stolen (ref 45180038521).

**Guildables Lane, Edenbridge - Theft.** Around 01.00 April 13th a Blue Land Rover Defender index AK02YKH was stolen (ref 45180038085).

**Bletchingley, South Godstone,South Nutfield, Shipley Bridge, Horne and Outwood**

**Burglary Residential including sheds and garages**

**Saint Catherines Cross, Bletchingley.** A report was received on April 12th that some weeks beforehand a garage was broken into and a Makita Saw and Strimmer, a Bosch Mitre Saw and a Stihl hedge trimmer were stolen (ref 45180038023).

**Gayhouse Lane, Outwood.** Between 10.00 and 17.50 April 18th the front door of a house that had not been double locked was forced open. After an untidy search several expensive bottles of alcohol, a Tomahawk axe and jewellery were stolen (ref 45180040320).

**Burglary Business and Community**

**Antlands Lane, Shipley Bridge.** Two offices on an industrial estate were broken into around 06.00 April 18th. After an untidy search details of any items stolen are awaited from the victims (ref 45180039979).

**Vehicle Crime**

**Godstone Road, Bletchingley – Theft.** A white Ford Transit index NL13CXN with the word THOM written on the side was stolen between 18.23 April 14th and 17.57 April 15th. A 3 series BMW saloon with partial index LC02 together with a white flatbed truck with a winch and metal rungs were involved in the theft (ref 45180038967).

**Castle Street, Bletchingley – Theft.** The aluminium rear doors of a tipper truck and a wheelbarrow were stolen between 11.00 April 14th and 12.00 April 15th (ref 45180038985).

**Tillburstow Hill Road, South Godstone – Theft.** Around 09.20 April 17th the gates to a farmyard were broken and a white Bailey Senator Caravan (Series 5 Indiana model) was stolen. The index was EK06MRV and the VIM no SGBSF04BY60509951. A green Toyota Rav 4 had been seen in the vicinity acting suspiciously a few days before and may have been connected to the theft (ref 45180039159).

**The Copse, South Nutfield – Criminal Damage.** Around 12.45 April 21st the back windscreen of a car was smashed and five blows made to the rear side panels (ref 45180041407).
**Oxted, Hurst Green, Godstone, and Limpsfield**

**Burglary Residential including sheds and garages**

**Hazelwood Road, Hurst Green.** Between April 7th and 14th a garage within a block of garages was broken into but nothing was stolen (ref 45180037943).

**Wolfs Row, Limpsfield.** Between April 21st and April 25th a garage was broken into and a strimmer, a Red Specialised mountain bike, a white mountain bike, a full sized folding four metre ladder and a jet washer were stolen (ref 45180042897).

**Burglary Business and Community**

**Station Road East, Oxted.** Around 16.25 April 14th staff confronted a male in the staff area of a shop. On being challenged he ran off and nothing was stolen. He was described as white, six foot tall, slim build, age mid 20's and wearing blue jeans, blue denim waistcoat and a blue flat cap (ref 45180038695).

**Criminal Damage**

**Holland Road, Hurst Green.** Between 08.00 and 17.00 April 13th the glass to a front downstairs window was cracked but no entry was made (ref 45180038411).

**Mill Lane, Hurst Green.** A catapult is believed to have been used to smash an outer pane double glazed window of a house between 17.00 and 18.30 April 20th (ref 45180041193).

**Woodhurst Lane, Oxted.** Around 05.00 April 15th a double glazed window at the front of a property was smashed but the victim on going to investigate was unable to see anyone in the vicinity (ref 45180038799).

**Barow Green Road, Oxted – Theft.** Around 09.25 April 18th the front and rear index plates of a vehicle were stolen (ref 45180040373).

**Theft**

**Ivy Mill Lane, Godstone.** Between April 8th and 12th a green wheelie bin was stolen from a driveway (ref 45180037920).

**Vehicle Crime**

**Saint Clair Close, Oxted - Criminal Damage.** Between 19.00 April 12th and 09.00 April 13th a parked car was sprayed with red paint (ref 45180038326).
Pollards Oak Road, Hurst Green Criminal Damage. Between 22.30 April 12th and 07.00 April 13th deep scratches totally ten feet in length were made to a van (ref 45180038531).

Coldshott, Hurst Green – Criminal Damage. Between 23.30 April 13th and 14.30 April 14th the air was let out of all the tyres on a parked vehicle (ref 45180038627).

Red Lane, Hurst Green – Theft. Around 23.43 April 23rd a van was unlocked electronically and a DJ Console and a Mac Computer were stolen (ref 45180042252).

The Greenway, Hurst Green – Theft. Between 00.00 and 05.30 April 24th the lock on a van was forced and two battery drills were stolen (ref 45180042370).

Court Road, Godstone – Criminal Damage. Around 22.00 April 12th a vehicle was scratched for the third time in eight months (ref 45180039036).

The Enterdent, Godstone – Criminal Damage. Between 16.00 April 16th and 09.45 April 17th one vehicle was damaged leaving a large dent in the roof and the rear lights of another were damaged and dents caused by items being thrown at the vehicle (ref 45180040228).

Ockleys Mead, Godstone – Criminal Damage. Around 00.30 April 24th the quarter light of a van was smashed (ref 45180042261).

Lindley Road, Godstone – Theft. Overnight April 23rd/24th the rear doors of a van were forced open and a hedge cutter, hand blower and lawn mower were stolen (ref 45180042310).

Caterham, Caterham on the Hill , Chaldon and Whyteleafe

Burglary Residential including sheds and garages

Church Hill, Caterham. Between 08.30 and 19.30 a silver gold plated chain, a necklace, pendant and cash were stolen from a flat and there was no apparent sign of forced entry (ref 45180041043).

Hillside Road, Whyteleafe. Around 09.46 April 23rd the victim discovered a flat had been entered by what is believed to be a key that had been copied. The key had been left in the front door some days previously. Cash was removed from a cash box (ref 45180042771).

Burglary Business and Community

Godstone Road, Caterham. Around 02.18 April 16th an office was broken into and the keys to a van were stolen. The van was later recovered in Northampton after an ANPR hit. The driver was arrested and has pleaded guilty to the offence (ref 45180039159).
Ninehams Gardens, Caterham. Between 19.30 April 19th and 08.00 April 20th a Tornado Pressure Washer was stolen from a building site (ref 45180041003).

**Criminal Damage.**

Rook Lane, Chaldon. Between 18.45 and 19.00 April 24th two young white males were seen to cause several thousand pounds worth of damage to a chipping green at a driving range and to drive away in a Vauxhall Corsa. Witnesses have provided names of the suspects and enquiries are ongoing (ref 45180042694).

**Vehicle Crime**

Greenwood Gardens, Caterham – Theft. Between 18.00 April 13th and 10.00 April 14th the front and rear index plates of a vehicle were stolen (ref 45180038569).

Church Walk, Caterham – Criminal Damage. Between 16.45 and 17.00 April 14th the offside rear passenger window of a vehicle was smashed (ref 45180038759).

Stafford Road, Caterham - Criminal Damage. Between 20.00 April 20th and 11.00 April 21st door seals to two cars were damaged (ref 45180041345).

Station Road, Whyteleafe - Theft. Between 18.00 April 17th and 08.45 April 18th the front and rear index plates of a vehicle were stolen (ref 45180039988).

Godstone Road, Whyteleafe – Theft. Around 09.08 April 25th a white Ford Transit truck index EY09XMM was stolen after a male gained entry to it and jump started it whilst the other offender acted as lookout (ref 45180042778).

Warlingham and Tatsfield

**Criminal Damage**

Sunnybank, Warlingham. Between 23.50 April 22nd and 01.43 April 23rd garden waste was set alight causing damage to fencing, a summerhouse and a vehicle as well as destroying a quantity of tools (ref 45180041840/41838).

**Burglary Residential including sheds and garages**

Hillside Road, Tatsfield. Between 20.00 April 16th and 09.45 April 17th a house was entered via an unlocked inner and outer front door. Car keys were then stolen from the kitchen and a black Mercedes S350 index KW15RVL was stolen (ref 45180040228).

Oakley Road, Warlingham. Between 19.30 April 22nd and 06.30 April 23rd a garage was broken into and a petrol saw/cutter, two wheelbarrows and a number of tools were stolen (ref 45180042769).

**Burglary Business and Community**

The Green, Warlingham. Between 22.00 April 20th and 08.00 April 21st there was an attempted break in to a property but no access gained (ref
Vehicle Crime

Paynesfield Road, Tatsfield – Theft. Between March 30th and April 15th whilst the victim was on holiday a Silver Range Rover index OE13BHX was stolen from a driveway. The hard drive of the CCTV system had been corrupted by an electro magnetic beam. In order to prevent this happening it is possible to purchase a Faraday Cage in which to place the recording unit and which will deflect electro magnetic beams (ref 45180038820).

Gresham Avenue, Warlingham – Theft. Between 10.45 April 12th and 10.45 April 15th the front and rear number plates of a vehicle were stolen (ref 45180038864).

Hillbury Road, Warlingham – Theft. Between 08.10 April 23rd and 18.56 April 24th the index plates of a vehicle were stolen (ref 45180042401).

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If you have to contact us about a non-urgent matter or to provide information on non-urgent suspicious matters or unusual behaviour you have observed which may be useful intelligence for us at a future date please email Tandridge Safer Neighbourhood Team: tandridge@surrey.pnn.police.uk

The information you provide will be read and treated in confidence when the staff are next on duty.

Any recipient of InTheKnow is free to copy our Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter to any other interested party who can also register to receive the bulletin at: https://www.intheknow.community

You can read past editions on the Tandridge Neighbourhood Watch web site www.tandridgenhw.org if you click on the tab headed Police

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Just a gentle reminder that our Safer Neighbourhood Team mail box, Facebook and Twitter account are not monitored 24/7. To report incidents please call 101 or in an emergency 999.

If you wish to report a NON URGENT crime visit :
https://www.surrey.police.uk/contact-us/report-online/report-a-crime/