

Horsham Police Weekly Update Friday 3 Feb 2017

News and appeals

Man charged with three burglary offences in Hove and Horsham

Detectives investigating a series of burglaries in West Sussex and Hove, during which vehicles have been stolen, have charged a man with three offences.

Lee Terrence Goulding, 21, a landscape gardener, of no fixed address, was charged on Tuesday (31 January) with three offences of burglary dwelling. He appeared at Crawley Magistrates Court on the following day and was remanded in custody to appear at Lewes Crown Court on 1 March.

The offences were; an attempted burglary at an address in Woodland Drive, Hove on 18 January; a burglary at an address in Goldstone Crescent, Hove on the same day; and a burglary at an address in Halls Drive, Faygate, Horsham on 30 January.

This development comes after two men were seen by neighbours to be acting suspiciously outside the house in Halls Drive on Monday morning (30 January). Police made one arrest following a search of the area, and the red VW Golf estate stolen during the Goldstone Crescent burglary was found abandoned in nearby Earls Meadow, Horsham.

Thieves broke into houses during the daytime and evenings while occupants were out, stealing car keys, and then taking the vehicle from the driveway or garage. Jewellery and cash was also taken from the houses in ten of the cases including the Halls Drive case but in that case the property was dropped as offenders ran off, and has been recovered.

Offences happened in Horsham, Haywards Heath, Worthing, Henfield, Steyning, Partridge Green Shoreham and Hove.

Detective Constable Jamie Carruthers of the West Sussex Priority Crime Team said; "If you have any information about this series of burglaries please email 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk quoting Operation Apricot.

"You can also report online or call 101, or contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

"Meanwhile please continue to take great care to secure your homes and make sure your car keys are out of sight. If you see any suspicious activity please ring 999 at once."

Horsham Inspector Clare Mcknight is moving and Acting Inspector Steve Chalcraft will be taking the lead for Horsham Neighbourhood Policing. Message from Chief Inspector Howard Hodges.

After nearly 5 years at Horsham, Inspector Clare Mcknight is moving on from her role

as the NPT Inspector.

During this time Clare has overseen significant changes to her team, structure and working practices; leaving them in good shape for the challenges ahead and having influenced at both a Divisional and Force level.

Clare will be leaving for a role on the Local Policing Programme; a developmental opportunity that will also make use of her skills. We wish her well in this challenge and hope that she is able to bring back some new learning to the Division on her return in due course. Whilst Clare is committed with this work it is an opportunity for us all to look to the future and embrace the challenges ahead.

I am sure that you will all join me in wishing Clare all the best in her new role and thanking her for her loyal service doing what we all do best; catch criminals and keeping people safe.

I am delighted to be able to inform you that Acting Inspector Steve Chalcraft has been appointed with immediate effect as the new NPT Inspector for Horsham. Steve will be an asset to the District and is looking forward to meeting the team, partners and the wider public to work with them to do what we do best; catch criminals and keep people safe.

Crime summary

Burglary Update.

Steyning area has been subject to a burglary spree on 25/01/2017, and a number of similar burglary dwelling offences have been reported prior to and since this spree.

Entry is usually gained from rear of premises in day time hours. Often an untidy search is conducted and jewellery, cash, electrical ignored targeted.

Following this additional patrols have been put in place, aiming to deter any further crime, to investigate any suspicious activity seen or reported, and to offer reassurance and advice to local residents. It has been good to find that the majority of community members we have spoken with are fully aware of these crimes and are clearly being vigilant to any suspicious activity.

During our patrols we find it useful to 'think like a burglar', and in doing this we are happy to report that we have seen a good number of properties with good security measures. Although we cannot see an occupant it certainly seems likely that someone is home – and, thinking like a burglar, we would consider the risk of being caught would be too high. These houses often seem occupied because various lights are on, because we can't easily look in windows to check, and sometimes we can hear noise too. The truth is, there may or may not be someone indoors – but the seed of doubt has been sown and a burglar is likely to move on to a 'better' prospect.

Unfortunately though, in most streets there are also homes that seem at much higher

risk. These are the obviously empty homes, some of which have had a good car on the drive or nice belongings on show through windows. It is inevitable that many homes will be left empty for periods of time as people leave to go to work or meet other commitments, and if you or a neighbour are in this position please consider taking some steps to help your home appear occupied during those times.

Start by taking a detached look at the house and, like us, try to 'think like a burglar'. Why does it look empty? Do you have valuable items on show? Are the keys to your car hanging in view of a window? Then take some steps to address what you find – leave lights on in rooms that can't easily be viewed, consider plugging in or installing timer switches so that the lights go on and off, consider leaving a radio on so that there is some noise of occupation. Put valuable items out of sight, keep special items of jewellery in a place not easily found, hide keys to the car...and of course make sure to lock the door as you leave. These are just a few simple low-cost or free measures that we can all take to deter burglary.

Added to this is the community vigilance that many people have already shown by reporting suspicious activity – if you see anything that you believe could be linked with crime please call Sussex Police on 101. If you believe that there is a crime in progress then please use the emergency number 999.

Other burglaries of note;

Reference: 1196 27-01

Location: Goring Road Steyning.

Date and time: Between 1230-1800 on 27/01/17

Details: Rear window prised open, jewellery stolen. Did you have anyone knocking at your door around this time?

Reference: 0775 29-01

Location: Cedar Close Horsham

Date and time: Between 24/01 -26/01

Details: Entry via rear patio door, two hand bags stolen from a table near the doors.

Reference: 0852 29-01

Location: Birch Drive Billingshurst

Date and time: 1630 29/01/17

Details: Heard 3 loud bangs and saw a male at the study window having forced it – no entry gained.

Reference: 0511 30-01

Location: Halls Drive Faygate

Date and time: 30/01/17

Details: Entry gained by forcing door. Untidy search unknown what's stolen at this time.

Reference: 0891 30-01

Location: Castle Way Steyning

Date and time: Between 27/01 -30/01

Details: Neighbour reporting rear door and window found open, untidy search

unknown what is stolen at this time.

Reference: 1274 30-01

Location: Waterhouse Mews Horsham

Date and time: Between 1600-1800

Details: Neighbour reported rear door and window found open, untidy search unknown what is stolen at this time.

Reference: 0623 31-01

Location: St Ouens Worthing Road, Horsham

Date and time: Between 1130-1345

Details: Patio door smashed untidy search unknown what is stolen at this time.

Other than Dwelling

Reference: 1145 and 1265 27-/01

Location: Sullington Mead Broadbridge Heath

Date and time: Between 26/01-27/01

Details: Shed broken into lock broken nothing stolen from one and chain saws and strimmer stolen from another.

Help us keep Sussex safe

If you saw or heard anything, or have any information about any incident in this message please [contact us online](#), email us at 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk or call **101**, quoting the reference number provided.

Alternatively you can contact the independent charity **Crimestoppers**, anonymously, on **0800 555 111**, or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Your local teams

[Visit our Website](#) to contact your local team, view local news and follow our social media accounts. Simply type your post code in the '**Find a Local Area**' box located in the top right of the web page.

Links and attachments: Sussex Police will only ever link you to secure Websites we trust. We will only send you attachments where we believe it is absolutely necessary.