

## Crime prevention tips

### Cut Car Crime with Durham Constabulary

Remember the "three Cs"

#### **C**lear valuables out of your car...

If you need to store valuables in your car keep them out of sight from opportunist thieves by locking them in the boot.

#### **T**ake **C**are where you park your car...

If you have a garage use it as this will dramatically reduce the chance of becoming a car crime victim.

If you do not have a garage, you are less likely to become a car crime victim if you park in a well-lit, busy area or secure car park.

#### **C**onsider making life more difficult for thieves...

Use theft-resistant number plates which are widely available online. Stolen number plates can be transferred to vehicles subsequently used to commit driving offences and more serious crimes.

Pick-up vehicles, 4x4s, vans and high-performance cars are particular targets for thieves and owners need to be vigilant.

Join your local Neighbourhood Watch as crime is always lower in areas with an effective Neighbourhood Watch presence.

**Play your part in cutting car crime!**

For more information visit [www.durham.gov.uk/vehiclecrime](http://www.durham.gov.uk/vehiclecrime) or join the police on Twitter and Facebook. Contact us by telephone on 101.



# 5



Altogether Better Policing

**Good reasons to be  
confident in Durham  
Constabulary...**

**Overall crime  
and anti-social behaviour is  
going down every year.**

**Detection  
rates are  
rising.**

**We respond  
to 90% of our  
immediate priority  
calls within set  
targets.**

**We answer  
nine out of ten  
emergency calls  
within ten  
seconds.**

**Eight out  
of ten people in  
County Durham and  
Darlington think we  
do a good job.**

L27-12



Altogether Better Policing

# Crook

## Police News

Issue 2

### Tackling rural crime...in a heartbeat

"It's cold, it's dark, and there's a long day ahead the next morning attending to livestock and preparing the land for another year's harvest.

So why do so many farmers and volunteers choose to stay up all night?

Farm Watch, that's why. It's Durham Constabulary's on-going initiative aimed at tackling rural crime around County Durham and Darlington – and it's working.

Farm Watch began in 1989 and has gone from strength to strength, becoming one of the most successful of its kind in the UK, having acquired over 800 volunteers from across the rural community including farmers, gamekeepers and residents.

Farm Watch is aimed at reducing crime and strengthening community spirit within small hamlets and villages, giving the farming community a sense of fellowship and resolve.

The latest operation is no different, held at Barnard Castle Police Station in the wee hours. Community volunteers descend

on the small building, along with neighbourhood police officers - all know each other by first name and greet each other, despite the late hour.

This isn't TV's Aidsfield and it isn't Heartbeat but, you wouldn't know the difference. You would expect local bobby Nick Berry to turn up at the briefing next, such is the camaraderie between police and volunteers.

The local sergeant talks about the tactics and aims of the operation following weeks of preparation and the analysis of key intelligence.

Volunteers are quickly paired off with one another and given radios to keep in contact, should they spot anything suspicious; they know how the operation works and it runs like clockwork.

They set off in convoy accompanied by their police officer comrades, armed with nothing but a torch and a hot flask. But they leave no stone unturned, patrolling farmland to detect and deter opportunist crooks. This is, quite literally, community policing.

The volunteers act as eyes and ears on the ground, notifying police officers of any suspicious people, or vehicles, loitering on farm land. If anything is sighted nearby, units swoop in and question the individuals.

All in all, the night remained quiet. But that's how the community wants it; it shows that the police are doing their job and that Farm Watch works.

The evening's events led to over 50 vehicles being stopped by police and one man being arrested, thanks to the help of the eagle eyed volunteers. The night of action involved 160 volunteers and police staff from Durham, Cumbria and North Yorkshire covering 1500 square miles.

For more information about the scheme or if you would like to get involved contact the local police team on the non-emergency number 101. ”

**Kevin Tuck**  
Neighbourhood Inspector  
Crook



### Your PACT Meetings

Have your say about policing in your community by attending one of our Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings - either online or in person. Check out the 'events' section of your local policing team website pages for meeting dates, times and locations.

[www.durham.police.uk/local/south/crook](http://www.durham.police.uk/local/south/crook)





## Out and About

We are in the process of recruiting new members to the team for Crook and Barnard Castle. Later this year, we will have a new police officer covering Cockfield, Staindrop and Gainford, replacing beat officer Dave Williamson, who moved into a crime reduction role in the area at the end of last year. A couple of PCSOs from the Crook area have also moved on. That is great news for them and the force as they have taken on police officer roles. We will be recruiting replacements in the near future, so look out for some new faces on the streets.

Residents in the south of the county can now dispose of unwanted metal items with the help of a force approved tradesman, collector Patrick Dowd. In a bid to crack down on metal theft, officers and PCSOs will carry letters to hand out to potential targets containing contact details for the collection service.

Metal theft in the area is down considerably after a successful programme of work to tackle the problem. Police action over recent months has included operations to target scrap metal yards across the whole of the North East. The work of Durham Constabulary to reduce this crime has received national recognition and it is on the way to making the county a no-go area for those who seek to gain from this despicable crime.

Following reports of a hit-and-run incident involving a stolen car in Wolsingham recently, the local policing team called in air support and quickly located the suspects. They were found hiding under an overhang in the river, just a mile from the scene of the collision. A great result after a fast response by local officers.

**Drug arrests:** Three men faced police action after cannabis was found at a house in Grove Road, Tow Law. Police seized 17g of herbal cannabis and 2.6g of cannabis resin from the house. Two men, aged 37 and 38, were arrested. One was subsequently released on bail pending further enquiries and the other received a fixed penalty notice. A 23-year-old man, who was stopped as he was leaving the address, was issued with a cannabis warning.



The television digital switch over will begin in the Tyne Tees area in 2012. We are aware that some individuals have used this as an opportunity to target vulnerable people with offers of new aerials and other equipment that is not needed. If you are in any doubt you can contact the Digital Switchover Help Scheme by visiting the website [www.helpscheme.co.uk](http://www.helpscheme.co.uk) or calling 0800 40 85 900.

If you are organising a local community event please remember to contact the relevant council's Safety Advisory Group for advice, guidance and support to ensure the event goes safely. You can find details on both the Durham County Council and Darlington Council websites.

We would like to draw your attention to the car crime prevention advice on the back of this newsletter. Theft from vehicles is becoming an issue across the county. Please make sure you follow our simple advice to prevent becoming a victim of this type of crime; remove or hide your valuables, choose your parking space wisely and lock your car.

After receiving information from the community about adults supplying alcohol to youths in Weardale we took action. Two individuals responsible were identified and issued with fixed penalty notices. This behaviour is not only illegal but it is also very irresponsible and the police action should act as a warning to others.

... down your way



PC 2153 Dave Turner:

*"As one of your dedicated beat officers in Crook, I understand local concerns and the importance of good communication between communities and the neighbourhood policing team. We have strong links with local people and that helps us tackle the problems that matter to you. Crook is a safe place to live and, by working together, we can keep it that way. If you do have any concerns, or would like to speak to a member of your local policing team, you can contact us via the details below."*

## Your Local Neighbourhood Policing Team

### Muggleswick

PC 828 Helen Pearson  
PCSO 6629 Tracy Bilton

### Willington and Oakenshaw

Sgt 1648 Shaun Davis  
PC 1168 Simon Schofield  
PCSO 7036 Nicola Firby

### Upper Weardale, Edmundbyers and Hunstanworth

Sgt 2141 Dave Lyall  
PCSO 6629 Tracy Bilton  
PC 828 Helen Pearson

### Howden-le-Wear, North Bitchburn, High Grange and Witton-le-Wear

Sgt 1648 Shaun Davis

### PC 250 Ian Craggs

PCSO 7184 Rebecca Carey

### Billy Row, Roddymoor and Stanley Crook

Sgt 1648 Shaun Davis  
PC 1833 Geoff Moore

### Tow Law and Sunnyside

Sgt 2141 Dave Lyall  
PC 2249 Michael Rutherford

### Wolsingham

Sgt 2141 Dave Lyall  
PC 1433 Ellis Hutchinson

### Stanhope

Sgt 2141 Dave Lyall  
PC 1080 Billy Crampsie  
PCSO 7437 Trevor Patterson

### Crook Town

Sgt 1648 Shaun Davis  
PC 1833 Geoff Moore  
PCSO 7317 Leanne Dunn  
PC 2153 David Turner

### Sunnybrow and Hunwick

Sgt 1648 Shaun Davis  
PCSO 7408 Rachael Turner  
PC 250 Ian Craggs

### Frosterley

Sgt 2141 Dave Lyall  
PCSO 7437 Trevor Patterson  
PC 1080 Billy Crampsie

### Main Station:

Crook Police Station,  
South Road,  
Crook,  
Co. Durham,  
DL15 8NE  
Email: [crook@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:crook@durham.pnn.police.uk)

### Front counter staffed:

10am to 3pm - Monday to Friday

*Outside these hours an intercom system and CCTV facility is available to link callers to the communications centre.*

**DURHAM  
CONSTABULARY**

**101**

**IN AN  
EMERGENCY  
ALWAYS  
CALL 999**

twitter

facebook

YouTube  
Broadcast Yourself

**You can contact your local neighbourhood team on 101**

Your local Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator is .....