

Crime prevention tips

Cut Car Crime with Durham Constabulary

Remember the "three Cs"

Clear 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.

Take **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.

Consider 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 or join the police on Twitter and Facebook. Contact us by telephone on 101.



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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.

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

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

L27-12



Altogether Better Policing

Barnard Castle

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/barnardcastle



Out and About

This year's Appleby Fair runs from June 7-13. As in recent years we have reserved special temporary areas where travellers can stop on the way there. As far as possible we have tried to ensure there is space for horses to graze. At these locations Durham County Council will provide portable toilets, water and waste collection.

The sites where stops are permitted:

Broomilaw - on the A688 near Stainton

Shawbank - on the outskirts of Barnard Castle.

North side of the cross roads, Winston - horses can be tethered within this new enclosure. Camping is not permitted on the protected area.

Wackerfield - after Wackerfield we suggest using the two big sites avoiding **Staindrop** village itself.

Guide Post Corner - on the approach to Bowes.

The sites where stops are not permitted are:

Bridgegate - a road closure will be in place to ensure no one stops or parks at this location from the Bank to the County Bridge between May 28 and June 18. In the interests of fairness and equality this exclusion extends to local residents.

Demenses, off Gray Lane - it is essential that this area remains clear as it is needed to set up the town MEET weekend carnival.

Deerbolt Bank - a road closure will be in place from May 28 to June 18 at this location to ensure no one stops or parks.

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.

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.



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 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.

We are in the process of recruiting some new members to the team for Crook and Barnard Castle. Later this year we will have a new police officer in Barnard Castle, replacing beat officer Dave Williamson, who moved onto a crime reduction role in the area at the end of last year. A couple of the local PCSOs from Crook 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.

... down your way



PCSO 7191 Lee Cowley:

"As a PCSO in the Barnard Castle area, I am committed to making it the safest possible environment for people to live and work. I attend local PACT meetings and have forged good working relationships with local people to ensure that communication between residents and the police runs smoothly. If anyone has any concerns, or would like to speak to one of the team, you can contact us on the details below."



PCSO 7190 Paul Conroy:

"As a PCSO in a rural community, I recognise how important it is to be out and about meeting residents so they know who to contact if they need the police. We are lucky to be in a safe area with low crime rates and the team here is committed to maintaining this. I can't stress strongly enough how successful the Farm Watch scheme is in the Barnard Castle area by keeping crime levels low and making people living in remote areas feel safe. If you are interested in becoming involved in the scheme please contact either myself or another member of the team."

Your Local Neighbourhood Policing Team

Barnard Castle Town

Sgt 330 Chris Knox
PC 1445 Harry Marsh
PCSO 7145 Ryan Field
PC 2412 Stephen Purchase
PCSO 6783 Steven Richardson

The Dales

Sgt 330 Chris Knox
PCSO 6636 Elizabeth Finn

South Teesdale

Sgt 330 Chris Knox
PCSO 6636 Elizabeth Finn

East Teesdale and Gaunless Valley

Sgt 330 Chris Knox
PCSO 7190 Paul Conroy
PCSO 7191 Lee Cowley

Main Station:

Barnard Castle Police Station,
Bede Kirk,
Barnard Castle,
County Durham,
DL12 8DJ
Email: barnardcastle@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**

You can contact your local neighbourhood team on 101

Your local Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator is