

## 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...

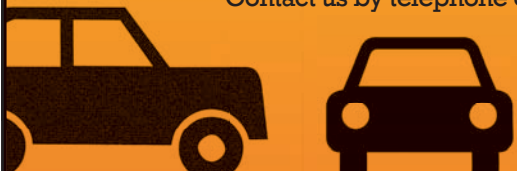
Use theft-resistant number plates which are widely available online. Stolen number plates can be transferred to vehicles subsequently used to commit driving offences and more serious crimes.

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.



Altogether Better Policing

# Chester-le-Street

## Police News

Issue 2

### The importance of local knowledge

Local officers discussing a hit-and-run case over a cuppa resulted in the arrest and charge of the man who failed to stop after his vehicle collided with another car in Chester-le-Street.

When PC Adam Norris attended the collision scene he had limited details to go on. The car that had driven off was described as burgundy in colour, and PC Norris was given only part of the registration number.

The victim had sustained whiplash injuries, and her car was badly damaged.

After returning to the station, PC Norris discussed the case with colleague, PC Alison Orford, who recognised the registration details given as they were similar to a "stop and search" she had conducted the week before. The officer checked her pocket note book entry for the previous incident and found the full registration and the car owner's details.

When PC Norris attended the registered keeper's address, he saw that the vehicle stopped the previous week matched the colour of the one believed to be involved in the hit-and-run. It also had damage consistent with what had been described.

As a result of enquiries a man was arrested for careless driving, failing to report an injury road traffic collision and failing to stop at an accident. He was interviewed by police and fully admitted the offence. He was subsequently summonsed to attend court.

An excellent result which demonstrates the importance of local knowledge and good communication!!

**Amanda Cathrine**  
Neighbourhood Inspector  
Chester-le-Street

### 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/north/ch-le-st](http://www.durham.police.uk/local/north/ch-le-st)





## Out and About

### Spotting grot

Sacriston, West Pelton, Grange Villa and Fencehouses are to benefit from a week of action aimed at improving their environments.

Activities will include educational visits to schools, a dog micro-chipping event, a community skip day and associated enforcement activity.

In addition, the Area Action Partnership (AAP) team is working with colleagues from the council's development management and regeneration functions to consider options for targeting more complex issues such as derelict buildings, abandoned sites and vacant shops.

An action plan was drawn up after a team comprising local PCSOs, community liaison officers, neighbourhood wardens and officers from the council's civic pride and technical services functions carried out 18 walkabouts in Chester-le-Street to address environmental issues such as graffiti, fly tipping and street litter.

They used information collected and data from the council's customer relationship management system to identify areas they felt would benefit from a week of action.

Local community wardens are working hard in the Chester-le-Street area to deal with environmental issues. To report problems with litter or dog fouling call 01207 693693 or the general county council number **0300 026 0000** (cost of a local call).

To report problems on the highway (streetlights, blocked drains, roads and pavements, traffic lights and permits) call the Highways Action Line on **0191 370 6000**.

The television digital switch over starts in the Tyne Tees area in 2012 and some people are using this as an opportunity to target vulnerable people with offers of new aerials and other unnecessary equipment. If in doubt contact the Digital Switchover Help Scheme at **www.helpscheme.co.uk** or on **0800 40 85 900**.

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

A metal thief who left a family with a flooded kitchen after stealing a brass tap will be sentenced soon. Carl Alexander, 24, from Chester-le-Street, pleaded guilty to stealing brass taps and copper piping from addresses in the Durham area. He was arrested at a scrap yard as he tried to weigh in the metal.

There are moves nationally to introduce new laws to prevent scrap metal dealers offering cash-in-hand sales to thieves passing on stolen metal and cables.

The proposed changes include introducing a new licence for all scrap metal dealers and the need for stricter identification for those selling to them, a ban on cash transactions, especially for large-scale/high-value scrap metal transactions, and tougher police powers to close rogue traders down.

... down your way

You can contact your local neighbourhood team on 101



"My name is Amanda Cathrine and I am neighbourhood inspector for the Chester-le-Street area. My aim is to work together with the community and partner organisations to make Chester-le-Street a safer, more secure and confident community. I am based at the main police station in Chester-le-Street where I manage the day-to-day policing of our neighbourhood."

## Your Local Neighbourhood Policing Team

**Neighbourhood Inspector:**  
Inspector 102 Amanda Cathrine

**Town Beat Team Sergeant:**  
Sergeant 1083 Paul Teare

**Chester South - Garden Farm Estate (Town Beat)**  
PC 772 David Barrass  
PCSO 6389 Christine Taylor  
PCSO 6390 Adrian Richards

**Chester West - The Avenues (Town Beat)**  
PC 1587 Steve Shotton  
PCSO 7095 Brian Donnelly

**Riverside & Holmlands Park (Town Beat)**  
PC 1869 Claire Trewick  
PCSO 6389 Christine Taylor  
PCSO 6390 Adrian Richards

**Chester Central - Front Street (Town Beat)**  
PC 1869 Claire Trewick  
PCSO 6389 Christine Taylor  
PCSO 6390 Adrian Richards

**Chester North - including South Pelaw (Town Beat)**  
PC 2128 Lynda Richardson  
PCSO 6533 Lesley Hunter

**Waldridge Village & Waldridge Park Est (Town Beat)**  
PC 772 David Barrass  
PCSO 6389 Christine Taylor  
PCSO 6390 Adrian Richards

**Great Lumley (Town Beat)**  
PC 1368 Mark Ferry  
PCSO 5341 Mark Lumsden

**Woodstone & Fencehouses (Town Beat)**  
PC 1368 Mark Ferry  
PCSO 6937 Rachel Haddon

**Bournmoor (Town Beat)**  
PC 1368 Mark Ferry  
PCSO 6937 Rachel Haddon

**Your Town Rural Team Sergeant is:**  
A/Sergeant 1472 Ken Judd

**Sacriston (Rural Beat)**  
PC 1434 Ellis Hall  
PCSO 7483 Hanna Sattar

**Nettlesworth, Plawsworth, Kimblesworth (Rural Beat)**  
PC 844 Heather Bittlestone  
PCSO 7483 Hanna Sattar

**Edmondsley (Rural Beat)**  
PC 844 Heather Bittlestone  
PCSO 7483 Hanna Sattar

**Ouston (Rural Beat)**  
PC 1472 Ken Judd  
PCSO 7188 Turnbull

**Pelton (Rural Beat)**  
PC 1921 Terry Graham  
PCSO 6778 Claire Laidler

**Pelton Fell (Rural Beat)**  
PC 1637 Steve Brown  
PCSO 7353 Sonia Jameson

**Grange Villa (Rural Beat)**  
PC 1637 Steve Brown  
PCSO 7040 Steve Larter

**Urpeth - Beamish, West Pelton & Handenhold (Rural Beat)**  
PC 1472 Ken Judd  
PCSO 7188 Neil Turnbull

### Main Station:

Chester-le-Street Police Station,  
Newcastle Road,  
Chester-le-Street,  
Durham,  
DH3 3TY  
Email: [chesterlestreet@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:chesterlestreet@durham.pnn.police.uk)

### Front counter staffed:

10am until 5pm - 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

You Tube  
Broadcast Yourself

Your local Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator is **Susie Blake**