

Crime Prevention Tips

Follow our Winter Nights advice

As the nights get darker...

- Before leaving your home make sure you have locked both your front and back doors and your windows. Almost a third of properties are burgled due to an insecure door or window.
- Consider leaving a light on before you go out when it's dark. It's a fact that properties left in darkness are more likely to be targeted by burglars.
- Close your curtains when heading out for the night.
- If you have a house alarm – please use it!
- Ensure car headlights are in working order, and avoid dazzling other drivers.
- Pedestrians - be safe and be seen – wear something bright when out and about after dark.

When the weather gets colder...

- Drivers - make sure your vehicle is secure when clearing windscreens of snow or ice.
- Snowballing is fun - but it could turn into anti-social behaviour or even a criminal offence if snowballs are aimed at cars or passers-by.

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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.

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.



North East CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime

L70-11



Altogether Better Policing

Barnard Castle

Police News

Issue 1

Farmwatch delivers successes

The Farmwatch initiative to combat rural crime is going from strength to strength, with the latest operation being one of our most successful to date.

Farmwatch involves teams of officers working with volunteers from across the rural area. Many of these are farmers and their staff who form a network of 'eyes and ears' linking in with the officers to report suspicious activity, people or vehicles.

They will do this on a regular basis throughout the year, and will also take part in specific overnight operations on selected dates.

In the latest operation a total of 80 volunteers from Weardale, Teesdale, Derwentside, Bishop Auckland, North Yorkshire and Cumbria joined 60 police officers from the three forces.

As a result, seven men were arrested and later charged with a range of offences.

Criminals don't work to geographical boundaries and they will find from these arrests that police don't either. All those arrested live within County Durham and Darlington.

The arrests were made by officers from Cumbria, North Yorkshire and County Durham who had met for a joint briefing.

We're determined to keep the region safe from travelling criminals who target rural areas.

Sixty of the volunteers were plotted across rural Weardale and Teesdale and we would welcome new members who want to get involved.

The arrests included three men held at Lunedale, on the road between Middleton-in-Teesdale and Brough, near the border with Cumbria.

They were charged with going equipped for theft and possessing a bladed article.

Three men from the Darlington area who were stopped in Barton on suspicion of being in a stolen vehicle were charged with a combination of offences, including taking a vehicle without consent, theft from a vehicle and handling stolen goods.

During the night of the operation a burglary was committed in Wolsingham in which £16,000 worth of power tools were stolen. The following morning a search of a property in Bishop Auckland led to the recovery of the property. A 31-year-old man from Bishop Auckland was charged with burglary.

Farmwatch demonstrates the value of local police working with local communities. Watch out for other similar operations in the future.

Kevin Tuck
Neighbourhood Inspector
Barnard Castle

Your PACT Meetings



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

www.durham.police.uk/local/south/barnardcastle



Out and About

Two people have been charged with burglary following a report of a stolen quad bike from the Scargill area of Teesdale. Witnesses who saw the quad bike travelling in convoy with a green Land Rover Discovery contacted police. As a result a 17-year-old male youth was arrested in Staindrop after crashing the quad and breaking his left foot. A short time later the Land Rover Discovery was stopped in the West Auckland area and the 23-year-old driver was arrested. Both men were later charged with burglary as the quad was stolen from a building. The 23-year-old was kept in police custody for court. The 17-year-old admitted being involved in a burglary in the Wearhead area of Weardale on November 7 which also involved an attempt to steal a quad bike.

This was a great example of Farmwatch principles in action, and we'd like to thank all those people who contacted the police with sightings of the stolen quad bike.

We're looking for local landowners in the Bowes area who would be prepared to open up their fields to travellers en route to the Appleby Fair in 2012. The land would only be used if the volume of caravans in the area was causing road safety concerns. We anticipate needing the use of the fields from Friday, June 1 to Friday, June 8. If you are able to help, please contact Sgt Chris Knox at Barnard Castle police on 0345 60 60 365.

Many local people will be disappointed to hear that our local Dedicated Beat Officer David Williamson is moving on to pastures new. We're certainly sorry to see him go, he's very well known and respected within the communities he serves in the Gaunless Valley. The good news is that in his new role, as a Crime Prevention Officer, he'll still be around to help. He will be involved in recruiting his replacement, which will take place in the near future, and he will continue to work in the local office so he'll be able to help ensure the new member of the team fully understands local needs.

Protect your bike against theft by coming along to our Christmas bike marking session at Barnard Castle police station on December 30, from 9am to 12 noon.

As your Neighbourhood Policing Team we're proud to be able to say that instances of anti-social behaviour in Weardale and Teesdale are rare. We have well behaved young people living in our local communities, and where there are issues they are dealt with swiftly. We rely on your information to maintain this, so if you do have reason to need our support, please contact the local team by phone or by email on the contact details in this newsletter.

Shoplifters are being warned to stay away from the stores in Barnard Castle this festive season, as we'll be taking action to stop them in their tracks. A 47-year-old woman who stole goods worth £265 was recently arrested for shoplifting at Boyes and the Edinburgh Woollen Mill in the town. She has been charged and bailed to court. Retailers are also advised to be on their guard against shop thieves.

Local residents are being offered the use of a stamping kit to mark lead on their property to protect it against thieves. We know that metal theft is a cause for concern for many people, and that's why we're taking action to prevent it. The kit allows users to put their postcode onto items so that they can be identified if stolen. It's a preventative measure aimed at stopping the theft in the first place. If you are interested in using the stamp, please contact a member of your local team.

... down your way

Your Neighbourhood Inspector



My name is Kevin Tuck and I am the Neighbourhood Inspector responsible for the rural districts of Teesdale and Weardale.

This covers the whole of Teesdale excluding Evenwood, Toft Hill, Etherley and Hamsterley which are policed by officers from Bishop Auckland for geographical and response reasons. In Weardale I cover Crook, Willington, Tow Law and the Upper dale including Stanhope and Wolsingham. My aim is always to work with residents, key stakeholders and partners to reduce offences, detect crime and maintain community confidence.

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 6783 Steven Richardson
PCSO 6636 Elizabeth Finn

East Teesdale and Gaunless Valley

Sgt 330 Chris Knox
PC 1813 David Williamson
PCSO 7190 Paul Conroy
PCSO 7191 Lee Cowley

Contact Us

Main Station:

Barnard Castle Police Station,
Bede Kirk,
Barnard Castle,
County Durham,
DL12 8DJ
Email: barnardcastle@durham.pnn.police.uk

Front counter staffed:

10am - 3pm Monday to Friday

Outside these hours an intercom system and CCTV facility is available to link callers to the Communications Centre.



Any information ring 0345 60 60 365
and ask for your local neighbourhood team.