

July 2011

Wrea Green and Westby Neighbourhood Watch Update



PC Dawn Conolly-Perch

Your Top Priorities

You've told us your top problems for us to tackle are:

- Dogs worrying live stock at Great Plumpton

Last month we discussed the crime spate at the local holiday village...

The team have held meetings with the security manager to discuss measures to reduce crime. The team have also increased patrols of the village checking hotspot areas. This has seen a reduction in crime reported on the area and procedures introduced to safeguard vulnerable buildings in the holiday park.

Dogs worrying live stock at Great Plumpton...

Dog wardens and the NHP team have in-



PCSO Trevor Sterling



Sergeant Niamh O'donoghue

Warning for people buying second hand cars

POLICE in Lancashire are warning members of the public to be particularly vigilant if considering buying a used car.

The warning comes after a spate of reports of stolen and cloned vehicles over recent weeks.

In the past fortnight, police have received six reports from people who have bought second hand cars that have been advertised on the internet that it transpires have been stolen and cloned using another vehicles' identity.

Detective Sergeant Simon Ingham, from the Organised Vehicle Crime Team said; "This type of criminality has a huge impact on the victims who are targeted as they are often left thousands of pounds out of pocket, with no way of getting their money back.

"We would send a strong warning to people who think they can get away with cloning cars and selling them on to innocent people – you will be targeted and you will be caught and brought to justice. I would also like to reassure members of the public that Lancashire Constabulary is taking robust action against those who clone and sell stolen vehicles.

DS Ingham continued: "People should exercise great caution when buying second handcars from private

creased patrols and residents have been spoken to regarding the situation. Positive action is being taken against offenders. As a result reports of dogs running free has reduced over the month but due to a recent sighting it is to remain a PACT priority.

Other news; Across Fylde in June 242 vehicles have been stopped as part of Operation Pathway. 27 have been given verbal warnings and 47 issued fixed penalty notices for various incidents including speeding. 1 vehicle was seized.

Public consultation — all welcome

Date	Time	Location
1st August PACT	19.00hrs	Ballam Church. West Moss Lane. Westby.

sales. We are currently working very closely with organisations such as Auto Trader in order to eradicate this type of crime. My advice would be to avoid paying cash where possible, otherwise ask for and record some form of credible identification from the seller and never meet in a car park or similar type of venue in order to complete the purchase of a car.

"If purchasers are taken to a private address make sure the seller actually lives there.

A genuine seller shouldn't object to this type of checking particularly if they want to achieve a sale. If in doubt walk away and inform the police or contact Crimestoppers. Never buy a car without a log book".

Police are also warning car owners to be extra vigilant in order to prevent their cars from being stolen through 'car key burglaries' – as this is quite often the first link in the car cloning chain.

Newer cars, which are often targeted for cloning, are difficult to steal so offenders are resorting to stealing keys left on show by using a hook or cane to retrieve them through an unlocked window, letterbox or cat-flap – people can prevent this by ensuring car keys are kept securely out of the way.

Anyone with any information that could be useful to police can call Lancashire Constabulary on 08451 25 35 45 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Officers' bravery honoured at special awards ceremony

POLICE officers have received commendations in recognition for their brave actions while on duty. The officers, who all work in Lancashire Constabulary's Western Division, which covers Blackpool and Fylde, were presented with the awards at a special ceremony.

PC Alan Bagan and PC Ross Williams were presented with the Rhodes Marshall meritorious conduct cup, which is given to officers who display significant physical, emotional or moral courage at an incident.

PC Bagan was returning to Bonny Street police station during the early hours of November 22, 2010, when he saw a man led on the edge of a footbridge, 50 ft from the ground. When the man appeared to lose consciousness and started to topple over the edge of the bridge, PC Bagan raced up the staircase and grabbed hold of his arm. PC Williams then arrived at the scene and grabbed both his colleague and the man - with the pair of officers having to hold on until further help arrived. It eventually took five officers to pull the man to safety.

Chief Superintendent Richard Debicki said: "Both of these officers reacted quickly in a life threatening situation. Were it not for their brave and physically demanding actions, the male in question would have fallen to his death."

Also nominated for the award were PC Paul Haddow, PC Matt Moore and PC David Baker. The trio attended a horrific scene in September 2010 where a man had fallen from a tower block and had been decapitated on his descent. The officers not only had to compose themselves and secure the scene but also had to deal with a number of members of the public trying to break through the police cordon to get a closer look.

PC Tim Taylor and Sgt Sam Driver were nominated for the award after dealing with an incident in Greenhalgh in September last year where a man started shooting an air rifle and throwing petrol bombs at a group of teens camping in a field. Without any thought for their personal safety they pursued the offender and arrested him near to the scene, preventing any further injury or danger to the group of traumatised youngsters. The man was later jailed for four and a half years.

PC Richard James was nominated after he helped to pull a suicidal male up from the parapet of the railway bridge next to Layton station in November last year. The man had toppled forward and PC James was able to grab his jacket and, with the assistance of members of the public, haul him to safety.

Chief Superintendent Richard Debicki said: "All of those who have received awards and commendations have gone beyond the call of duty when faced with situations that were often dangerous and in some cases life threatening. The actions of these individuals should be praised, not only because in some cases they have helped to save the life of someone else, but also because they are helping to protect our communities on a daily basis."



Recognised officers with Chief Supt Debicki

Court Round Up

A 31 year old male has pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply cannabis and possession of a Class C drug following a search of premises on Woodlands Road in Ansdell. He has been sentenced to 6 months imprisonment suspended for 2 years. He must also carry out 150 hours unpaid work and attend appointments for 2 years with probation.

A 63 year old male has pleaded guilt to speeding along Lytham St Annes Way. He has been given 3 points and costs and fines of £165.

A 32 year old male has pleaded guilty to using a vehicle without third party insurance and failing to provide a specimen after being stopped on Blackpool Road in Kirkham. He has been disqualified for 16 months with costs and fines of £325.

A 21 year old male has pleaded guilty to taking a vehicle without the owners consent and driving whilst disqualified around Kirkgate area. He has been committed to prison for 120 days and disqualified for 3 years.

Trading Standards Warning

Memory Foam Mattress Reports are being received throughout the North West of door to door selling of memory foam mattresses. Cheshire and Blackpool have reported incidents of residents buying the mattresses from a man in a van who has approached them on the street or at their door. Recently another incident has been reported in the Leyland area, the mattress allegedly being worth a £1,000.

As always, Trading Standards advice is never to do business on the doorstep.

Refer any complaints to Lancashire Trading Standards Service, Room D21, County Hall, Preston, Lancs PR1 3NU via Consumer Direct tel 08454 040506.

Local Crime Figures

Figures for Ribby with Wrea Ward	June 2010	June 2011	%+ or -
All criminal damage	0	0	No change
Domestic Burglaries	0	0	No change
Vehicle crime (theft of and from)	0	0	No change
All violent crime	0	0	No change