

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Cheshire News & Appeals



### Latest Cheshire News

#### **Teenager caught discarding crack cocaine down a toilet jailed for three years and six months**

A 19-year-old man who was caught discarding crack cocaine down a toilet has been jailed. Liam Malvern, from Dam Wood Road in Liverpool, was caught by officers after they raided a house on Watkin Street in Orford on Thursday 24 October 2019. On entering the house, officers saw Malvern sat on the toilet with his trousers by his ankles. They believed he had been disposing of drugs while they gained entry to the house. Malvern was swiftly handcuffed and following a search almost £200 was recovered from his trouser pocket.

Police also seized two mobile phones, a debt list found on the kitchen worktop with handwritten names and amounts on and two train tickets. After examining the mobile phones officers uncovered Malvern had been visiting the address on a regular basis and offering drugs to users. Malvern was sentenced to three years and six months at Liverpool Crown Court on Monday 23 March after pleading guilty to being concerned in the supply of crack cocaine.

Detective Sergeant Tom Hall, from Warrington Beat Initiative Team, said: "Malvern had only just been released from prison after admitting supplying heroin and crack cocaine when he was caught once again by my team. He thought he could flush away the drugs and no police action would be taken, however he has learnt it isn't as easy as that. We conduct thorough searches of the property and seize numerous items which provide vital evidence in uncovering the extent of the drug activity. Malvern was shown to be a regular visitor of the address and dealing crack cocaine to users – there's only one place for this type of activity – and that's prison."

If you believe drug activity is taking place in your community please report it to Cheshire Police either by visiting the website <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/> or calling 101. Information can also be provided anonymously through Crimestoppers [www.crimestoppers-uk.org/](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/)

#### **Ellesmere Port man charged with burglary offences**

**A 41-year-old man from Ellesmere Port has been charged with burglary offences.**

Stephen Prior was arrested at an address in Ellesmere Port at around 9.45pm on Wednesday 1 April. Prior, of no fixed address, has since been charged with two counts of burglary. The charges relate to incidents at a domestic property in Queensway, Frodsham, on Monday 30 March and at a used car and van dealership on Station Road, Little Sutton, Ellesmere Port, on Tuesday 31 March. The keys to a car and then the vehicle itself were stolen from the domestic property, as was a watch. The car has since been recovered by the police. Car keys were also stolen from the dealership.

Prior has been charged with driving the car stolen from Frodsham whilst disqualified and without insurance. He has also been charged with interfering with a motor vehicle in connection with an incident in Fluin Lane, Frodsham, on Monday 30 March. Prior has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Friday 3 April. Prior appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Friday 3 April. He has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Friday 1 May.

## **New bike for Crewe pensioner who had her bike stolen while out shopping**

A pensioner from Crewe who had her bicycle stolen while out shopping during the coronavirus pandemic has been given a new one. The Halfords store in Grand Junction Retail Park in the town kindly offered to donate a new bike to the lady after hearing about the theft from local officers. It occurred outside the Morrisons supermarket in Dunwoody Way, Crewe, on Tuesday 31 March between 1.10pm and 2.10pm. The lady had locked the bike up outside the shop as she went into the store to buy food. She was devastated when she discovered that the bike had been stolen and the incident was swiftly reported to the police.

Detective Inspector Claire Jesson, of Crewe Local Policing Unit, said: "Despicable crimes like this are so upsetting, particularly when they occur during these extremely difficult times and especially for our elder members of the community. The team and I at Crewe were heartbroken to hear of the elderly victim having her only means of transport stolen from her while she was out shopping. We wanted to surprise the lady with a replacement bike to put a smile on her face and enable her to still have transport to get around. I would like to say a massive thank you to Barry at Halfords for offering to come to the woman's aid after we told him about the callous crime. Kindness really does go a long way, especially during times like these when we as a community should be coming together to help and support each another, particularly the elderly and other vulnerable members of society."

A Halfords spokesperson said: "We were delighted to help Crewe Police and the woman who had her bike stolen with a replacement. We hope she enjoys her new set of wheels."

Cheshire Constabulary's Chief Constable Darren Martland added: "What a wonderful gesture by the team of officers and Halfords in coming together to help the lady, who I'm sure is extremely grateful."

The bicycle has since been located and returned to the lady today (Thursday 2 April) however enquiries in relation to the theft are ongoing. Officers are appealing to the public to help identify a male they want to speak to in-connection with the theft. He is described as wearing a black jacket with a hood, a black hat and a grey snood. His trousers were dark coloured with a white stripe down the side which contained dark markings. Anyone with information regarding the theft should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 672045, or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. Alternatively, information can be reported to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/pre-form>

## **Cheshire's Chief Constable praises public for support in helping to tackle the spread of coronavirus**

**People across Cheshire are being praised for their community spirit in helping to tackle the spread of coronavirus.**

The majority of residents appear to be following the new regulations that have now been in place for almost five days in a bid to save lives and protect the NHS.

Chief Constable Darren Martland said: “It is really encouraging to see so many people in Cheshire being supportive, listening to the advice, taking it on board and staying at home where they can. I would like to say thank you to everyone who is helping to play their part in the national effort. This is an unprecedented public health emergency and we are all having to make adjustments to the new measures, which are in place. We appreciate the difficulties and uncertainties that we are all facing. It is important to remember that this is something none of us have ever experienced before. We are all learning and, by the very nature of what we are dealing with and the fast pace of it, inevitably we will not always get things right as we get to grips with the circumstances.

“Our aim is always to engage with people, explain the reasons behind the new regulations, encourage them to take it on board and support the people we serve to ensure that everyone is fully complying with these restrictions and this is the message I am giving to my officers. Sadly, there have been a small number of cases when members of the public have refused and in such cases we may have to take enforcement action against those individuals involved. We police by consent, maintaining public confidence and caring for our communities is paramount so enforcement will always be a last option.”

There have been a number of cases across the county where members of the public have deliberately coughed in the faces of police officers, claiming to be infected with Coronavirus. Yesterday (Monday 30 March) a 31-year-old man from Nantwich was jailed for eight months for deliberately spitting and coughing in the face of a Cheshire police officer. The incident took place on Friday night in Maplins Moss Place in Crewe as officers tried to arrest the man for being drunk and disorderly. He was verbally abusive towards them before coughing and spitting in their faces. There have also been a handful of other incidents of a similar nature.

Chief Constable Martland added: “This type of behaviour is disgraceful. Our officers are working in really challenging circumstances. They are putting their own lives and the lives of their families at risk on a daily basis. I want to acknowledge all police officers and police staff, who alongside other emergency workers, NHS staff and other key workers, are working on the frontline – they are doing outstanding work in exceptionally hard times. Our policing style in Cheshire is defined by our neighbourhood policing model, where officers, PCSOs and members of the Special Constabulary work to protect our communities and provide vital reassurance. This model, which has served us well and will continue, has enabled critical relationships to be developed with the public and our partners. We have been given extraordinary powers in an extraordinary situation, powers we would not normally wish to have, but I’d like to thank the public for helping and supporting us. We police with the consent of the communities we serve, so a positive relationship with those communities is of huge importance to us.”

Police and Crime Commissioner David Keane added: “Cheshire police officers are carrying out a very difficult job in particularly difficult circumstances so it’s great to see that the majority of our communities are complying by these new measures to keep us safe. It is also essential that the new policing measures are enforced proportionately and I am continuing to work closely with the Chief Constable to seek assurances that the policing measures used closely follow the new government legislation. These new measures have been put in place for a very good reason, to protect our communities, save lives and to relieve pressure on our wonderful NHS, and I would encourage you all to follow them.”

The new public health regulations, which came into force on Thursday 26 March, have been introduced to ensure people stay at home and avoid non-essential travel – unless for one of the following reasons:

- Shopping for basic necessities, as infrequently as possible
- One form of exercise a day - for example, a run, walk or cycle - alone or with members of their household
- Any medical need, to provide care or to help a vulnerable person
- Travelling to and from work, but only where they cannot work from home
- Participating in gatherings of more than two people in public spaces is also not permitted except in very limited circumstances, for example, where it is for essential work purposes.

Full details of the measures are available on [the Governments website](#).

## **Criminal Behaviour Order handed to persistent shoplifter from Widnes**

### **A persistent shoplifter from Widnes has been handed a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO).**

Jack Welch, of Terrace Road, predominantly targets stores in Runcorn. The 23-year-old was jailed for four weeks by Warrington Magistrates' Court on Friday 14 February. He was convicted of five counts of theft from a shop. The offences were all committed in Runcorn – at a Co-op store on Thursday 23 January and Tuesday 4 February, at a B&M shop on Wednesday 22 January and Tuesday 28 January and at a Lloyds Pharmacy on Thursday 30 January. They are among a string of shoplifting offences Welch has been convicted of. He also has previous convictions for serious acquisitive crime, possession with intent to supply class A drugs and threatening behaviour.

Welch returned to Warrington Magistrates' Court for a CBO hearing on Friday 27 March.

The five-year CBO imposed by the court bans him from:

- Behaving in a way that causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to anyone in Cheshire
- Entering Runcorn, unless to attend a pre-arranged probation service appointment
- Using a self-service checkout at any retail premises in Cheshire
- Placing any item for sale in anything other than a shopping basket or trolley prior to payment being made at retail premises in Cheshire
- Concealing any item for sale on his person at any retail premises in Cheshire
- Concealing his face or head when entering any retail premises in Cheshire
- Having more than one mobile phone in his possession
- Possessing a mobile phone which has not been registered in his name.

The court also ordered Welch to adhere to a drug rehabilitation centre requirement.

Police Constable Chris Roberts, of the Halton Problem Solving Team, said: "CBOs are preventative orders that are designed to stop persistent offenders committing further offences. They are applied for and imposed as a last resort. In the case of Jack Welch, he is a persistent offender with a series of shoplifting convictions and has shown no signs of ceasing his criminal behaviour. There comes a point when you have to say enough is enough and take additional action to protect stores from being targeted. The coronavirus pandemic is having a significant financial impact on businesses and the last thing that retail premises in Halton need is to continue to be targeted by a prolific shoplifter like Welch.

“The CBO bans Welch from going to Runcorn, to reduce the likelihood of him committing offences. He has been made aware that it is an offence to breach the terms of a CBO. I hope that the CBO has the desired effect and prevents Welch from shoplifting or committing any other offence in Halton or anywhere else in Cheshire over the coming weeks, months and years. I also hope that Welch changes his ways, for his own sake as well as for the sake of retail premises and the people living and working in Halton.”

Anyone who encounters Welch breaching any of the above restrictions over the next five years is asked to contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 to report it.



## **Man wanted in connection with murder almost 17 years ago is extradited to the UK**

Christopher Guest More Jr, who was wanted in connection with the murder of a father at a farm in Cheshire almost 17 years ago, has now been extradited to the UK. The 42-year-old, who was wanted on a European Arrest Warrant in connection with the death of Brian Waters, arrived back in the UK on Sunday 29 March.

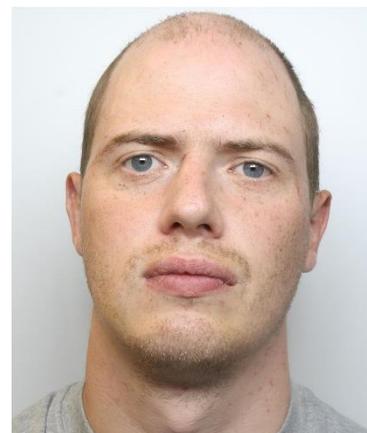
Guest More Jr was arrested on 6 June 2019 in Malta following an extensive international appeal to locate him. This involved close working between Cheshire Constabulary and the National Crime Agency along with law enforcement agencies abroad. He has since had several court appearances on the island as part of the extradition process and Cheshire Constabulary has liaised extensively with The Crown Prosecution Service, The Attorney General’s Office, The State Advocate’s Office in Malta, Malta Police Force and Malta’s Correctional Services Agency throughout the process.

He has been remanded into custody and appeared before Warrington Magistrates’ Court this morning (Monday 30 March) where he was further remanded into custody to appear at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 31 March.

## **Man jailed following serious assault in Crewe**

**A 31-year-old has been jailed for seriously assaulting an older man in Crewe.**

Danny Stockton, of Abbey Place, Crewe, was living in Wilmslow when the incident occurred shortly before 10pm on Saturday 13 July. After witnessing an altercation involving two women in front of a house in Maplins Moss Place, he became involved in an altercation with a 45-year-old man from Crewe. The man sustained head and facial injuries as a result of the altercation before fleeing into a nearby house. At that point Stockton, who was topless, started walking towards a 42-year-old man from Crewe in an aggressive manner. The victim walked backwards onto Broughton Road as Stockton pursued him. He made it clear to Stockton that he did not want to fight him. Yet Stockton grabbed him after he had tripped over and then seriously assaulted the man, punching him twice before repeatedly kicking him in the head as he lay on the floor. He left the victim lying in a pool of blood and was arrested in Maplins Moss Place shortly after 10pm.



The 42-year-old victim and the 45-year-old man were both taken to hospital, where they received treatment for the facial and head injuries they had sustained. The younger man’s injuries were particularly extensive. Stockton was subsequently charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent in relation to the 42-year-

old man and assaulting a person occasioning actual bodily harm in relation to the 45-year-old man. He denied the charges. Following a two-week trial at Chester Crown Court, Stockton was convicted of the GBH charge and found not guilty of the ABH charge. He returned to the court on Friday 27 March to be sentenced for the GBH offence. Stockton was jailed for 15 years.

Following sentencing, Detective Sergeant Steve Smith, who led the investigation for Crewe Local Policing Unit, said: "After the 45-year-old man he'd had an altercation with had fled, Danny Stockton was determined to continue the violence. The 42-year-old victim made it crystal clear to Danny Stockton that he did not walk to fight him. He told him so and attempted to walk away from him. Yet Stockton pursued him and attacked him when he had tripped over and was vulnerable. The level of violence shown by Stockton during this attack was truly abhorrent. The victim sustained significant facial and head injuries as a result of the serious and sustained assault, which was witnessed by members of the public. But the consequences of this incident could have been far worse, for the victim, the offender and all of their friends and family members.

"Thankfully, the victim is at home recovering from the physical and physiological effects of the assault and Stockton is now behind bars facing the consequences of his actions. I would like to thank the witnesses who gave evidence during the trial and I hope that the culmination of this case and the substantial prison sentence that Stockton has received gives the victim some closure and that he can now begin to move forward with his life. I also hope that this case underlines the fact that Cheshire Constabulary will do everything in our power to bring violent offenders to justice and that the 15-year custodial sentence imposed by Chester Crown Court deters others from committing similar crimes."

On top of his custodial sentence, Stockton was ordered to pay a £181 victim surcharge. He was also handed a restraining order prohibiting him from contacting the victim, either directly or indirectly, for 20 years.

## **St Helens man charged following police pursuit in Warrington**

**A 30-year-old man from Merseyside has been charged following a police pursuit in Warrington.**

Liam Baldwin, of Pollitt Crescent, Clock Face, St Helens, was arrested shortly after 2am on Friday 27 March. He was arrested in Mitchell Lane, Burtonwood, Warrington, and has subsequently been charged with failing to provide a breath test. The charge relates to the pursuit of a van that began on the slip road of Junction 7 of the M62 eastbound and ended in Burtonwood. Baldwin has been released on unconditional bail and is due to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 14 April.

## **Latest Cheshire Appeals**

### **CCTV images released following criminal damage incident at Warrington pub**

**Officers have released CCTV images of a man they want to speak to in connection with a criminal damage incident in Warrington town centre.**



The incident occurred at the Firkin Tap pub in Buttermarket Street at around 5am on Saturday 15 February. It saw a man smash one of the pub's windows after repeatedly kicking it from outside. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers believe that the man in the CCTV images may have important information to aid their investigation. They are urging anyone who recognises him or thinks they may know who he is to get in touch.

Police Constable Jack Brennan, of Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: "We are determined to establish who repeatedly kicked and smashed the window at the pub and make them face the consequences of their actions. We believe that the man in the CCTV images may have vital information to help us achieve that goal. If you think you recognise the man or know who he is please call us at Warrington Police Station on 101, quoting IML 637877, give us the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. I would also like to appeal directly to the man in the CCTV images to get in touch."

### **Appeal following burglary incident at Chester church**

**Officers are appealing for information from members of the public following a burglary incident at a church in Chester.**

Between 6pm on Saturday 21 March and 9.45am on Sunday 22 March the Church of the Holy Trinity in Capenhurst was broken into. No-one was inside the church at the time. After removing a window from the church in Capenhurst Lane, the offender or offenders conducted an untidy search of the premises. They are

not believed to have stolen anything from the church. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are urging anyone with any information or footage that may help their investigation to come forward.

Police Constable Ashley Davies, of Chester Local Policing Unit, said: "All burglary offences are serious, but to target a place of worship is despicable. We are determined to establish who broke into the church and make them face the consequences of their actions. As part of our ongoing enquiries we are appealing for anyone with information or footage that may be relevant to the investigation to get in touch. Perhaps you were in the area that Saturday evening or Sunday morning and witnessed something suspicious. Or maybe you believe that you may know who committed the offence, or have dashcam footage of them."

Anyone with any information or footage that may aid the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 666217, or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. Alternatively, information can be reported to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>.

To find out further information about the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, to log into your account or for Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Literature please visit our website: <http://cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk/>