

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 28th June 2020

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Three men charged in connection with serious and organised crime

The Serious and Organised Crime Unit have charged three men in-connection with drug offences.

Lee Preston, aged 21, of no fixed address has been charged with conspiracy to supply crack cocaine and heroin. Connor Robins, aged 26, of Clover Lane, Lache in Chester address has been charged with conspiracy to supply crack cocaine and heroin. Joshua Burns, aged 24, of Flint Court in Ellesmere Port has been charged with conspiracy to supply crack cocaine and heroin. All three men appeared at Warrington Magistrates Court on Friday 19 June and have been remanded until Wednesday 15 July where he will appear at Chester Crown Court. A 27 year-old man was arrested on Thursday 26 June on suspicion of possession with intent to supply cannabis and dangerous driving. He has since been released under investigation. The charges are in connection with an operation which took place on Tuesday 16 June where 16 people were charged following warrants in Ellesmere Port, Chester and Wirral.

Police urge people not to attend illegal raves

Cheshire Constabulary is urging anyone who is considering attending an illegal rave to think twice.

Over the past few weeks there have been a number of unlicensed music events across the country – some of which have resulted in serious physical and sexual assaults. In Cheshire, there have been a handful of incidents reported so far, but the force is aware of intelligence to suggest that people are planning further events this weekend and officers are actively monitoring a number of sites. Anyone who is considering on attending an event is advised to stay away.

Superintendent Julie Westgate from Cheshire Police said: *“I would urge anyone who is planning to attend an illegal rave to think twice. We have a dedicated policing operation in place and increased police presence across the county throughout the weekend. Our teams will be patrolling key locations and they will act on any intelligence they receive regarding any possible events. We know that people want to go out and socialise with friends, but everyone needs to remember that the coronavirus regulations are still in place. New cases of COVID-19 are being diagnosed in the local community every day and it’s essential that we all follow the national guidance, including social distancing, to help protect the NHS and save lives. Our officers will continue to use common sense and discretion to determine what is reasonable, with officers engaging, explaining, encouraging and, only as a last resort, enforcing. However, proportionate action will be taken if necessary and this could include the seizure of any music equipment, arrest or even prosecution.”*

Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner David Keane said: *“I understand that it's been a difficult time for everyone, particularly young people who have been unable to socialise with friends due to COVID-19. However, coronavirus has not gone away and we all have a duty to ourselves and each other to stay safe,*

protect our NHS and save lives. I would urge anyone who is thinking of hosting or attending an illegal rave in Cheshire to stay away."

Anyone with any information or intelligence in relation to any possible illegal raves is urged to contact Cheshire Police on 101.

Four women plead guilty to fraud offences

Four women who were arrested by Cheshire police in connection with a series of offences across the North West have pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit fraud.

Emmiline Burdon, 29, Lyndsey Burdon, 36, Sarah Burdon, 40, and Sonia Malhi, 37, were all arrested on Wednesday 13 May as part of an investigation co-ordinated by detectives from Macclesfield and Northwich Beat teams and well as officers from Merseyside's fraud unit. The detectives were supported by Cheshire Constabulary's Economic Crime Unit. All four women were subsequently charged with conspiracy to commit fraud along with a number of other offences. Emmiline Burdon, of Riverdale Road, Manchester; Lyndsey Burdon, of Brynorme Road, Manchester; Sarah Burdon, of Evesham Road, Manchester; and Malhi, of Hobson Crescent, Audenshaw, Greater Manchester; all appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 25 June where they pleaded guilty to the all offences. They have all been remanded in custody and are due to be sentenced week beginning 20 July. The charges relate to allegations of the fraudulent usage of stolen bank details that were allegedly used to purchase items at stores in Cheshire, Merseyside, Lancashire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester and Derbyshire

Partial closure order imposed on Chester house

A partial closure order has been imposed on a house in Chester in response to persistent anti-social behaviour and drug use.

Over the past year officers have attended the address in Queens Avenue multiple times, to deal with persistent reports of drug use, anti-social behaviour and large groups of people gathering inside the house and blighting the community with bad behaviour. The property is a house of multiple occupancy which is rented by a local charity and shared by a number of residents, some of whom are extremely vulnerable. Officers have attempted to work with the occupants to help tackle the issues and stop groups from gathering at the address, but this has been unsuccessful. Therefore officers from the Chester Neighbourhood Policing Team, in conjunction with the charity who rent the home, applied for a partial closure order under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Granted by Warrington Combined Court on Wednesday 24 June, the order makes it a crime for anyone other than the four tenants to be at the property for up to three months.

Police Constable William McMillan said: *"Over recent months there have been numerous reports of drug related and anti-social behaviour connected to this address and the behaviour those who have been using the property has had a detrimental impact on the quality of life of local residents. Many of the people residing at this address are extremely vulnerable and I hope that this partial closure order will both help to protect them from potential exploitation, while at the same time provide reassurance local residents. I want to thank the local community for their cooperation and the information that they supplied during our investigation, which was crucial in us gathering the evidence needed to secure the order. I would also like to thank Chester Aid to the Homeless, who rent the address, who have also worked closely with us to help protect the residents and improve the quality of life for local residents. Following today's result we will conducting regular checks at*

the house over the next three months to ensure that there are no breaches of the order and we'll also continue working closely with local residents."

If anyone is found to have breached it they are liable to be arrested and face up to six months in prison, an unlimited fine or both.

Inspector Emma Parry, from Chester Local Policing Unit, added: *"The closure order is another example of our commitment to targeting those who undermine our communities and have a significant detrimental impact on the quality of life of local residents through unacceptable behaviour. Chester LPU will continue to focus their attention on people who are complacent with allowing their properties to be used for antisocial or criminal activity, and anyone who does will face the consequences of their actions."*

David Keane, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, said: *"Drug related activity and anti-social behaviour can have a big impact on the local community. This closure order is just one example of the work that the local policing teams across Cheshire are doing to help reduce crime and improve the quality of life for local people. I would like to acknowledge the work of the officers involved in securing this closure order and I hope that it provides reassurance for those living in the area."*

Anyone who believes that the order has been breached is urged to contact Cheshire Police on 101. Alternatively, residents can report information anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Pride season 2020

Deputy Chief Constable for Cheshire Constabulary and National policing lead for LGBT+ talks about the impact that COVID 19 has had on pride events planned for this year.

As we celebrated the start of 2020 we had no idea what lay just around the corner. Now we are in a vastly changed world with every part of life affected by Coronavirus. Whether through loss of jobs, livelihoods, the inability to go out and meet people, schools, shops and businesses closed, socialising only from a distance and losing friends and family members, Covid-19 has hit us all hard.

Then we witnessed the horrific death of George Floyd in America and the events that have followed. On top of this we already know that the virus is having a disproportionate impact on our BAME communities. When I speak to people from under-represented groups it's clear the past few months have been incredibly tough.

As the national policing lead for LGBT+, I have spoken to many people and it is clear that cancelling Pride marches and celebrations is also going to have a huge impact this year. Within Policing, Pride is celebrated as an opportunity for our staff to be themselves and show who they are, very publicly, in a Pride march. Pride started as a protest against the harassment and mistreatment of the LGBT+ community and today the police involvement in Pride sends a strong message, not only to victims, but to those who wish to cause harm to the LGBT+ community. I know from speaking colleagues how important it is to them that they are able to show their communities that the police service has changed and is on their side.

The encouragement and backing they receive from their supervisors to take part also reinforces the support for them in the workplace and it gives them a sense of inclusion and acceptance (I hate that word *acceptance*. I don't think anyone has the right to determine whether, or not someone else can or should be

accepted, but it is very important that LGBT+ staff do feel accepted and valued as one of the team by their colleagues and supervisors).

The effect of Covid-19 means that it is really hard for many LGBT+ people to get the support they would normally have through social contact and through their networks and social groups. Not having Pride has also taken away their opportunity to catch up with friends, which is critical to many colleagues as this is the time to refuel, re-energise and to share experience in a way that formal meetings can't provide. Of course, this is the same for everyone due to Covid-19; but Pride is the place that many LGBT+ people boost their mental health and connect with those across the country, enjoying the security in being together, being in a safer place, celebrating progress made and being truly themselves.

Pride helps to show our communities that we are a diverse organisation and that we want to encourage people from all backgrounds to join policing. We have so many diverse opportunities for anyone to excel in policing, but we have to make sure we look like and are representative of those we police. Being at Pride helps to bridge the gap between policing and our communities and it helps to instil confidence for people to turn to us when they need us. It is vital that we show the public that policing has, and continues to, evolve. The past few months have brought back to the public eye the long way policing still has to go so we are truly reflective of the communities we serve and I know this is a priority for every chief police officer in this country.

Over the last few months there has been a lot of focus on trans rights and the rights of women. Within policing our focus has been to ensure trans people are supported in the workplace, that their welfare is paramount and they are able to be themselves at work.

So this year there are a number of Virtual Prides with some very exciting and diverse events planned. Policing already has strong links with Pride organisations across the country and at this time we want to further those relationships and fully engage with the virtual Prides. I am encouraging supervisors and senior managers to support their LGBT+ staff to be part of the virtual Prides, just as we would normally. Every year we have hundreds of allies who are keen to take part in Pride and I want this to continue this year. This visible support for LGBT+ colleagues is greatly appreciated and reinforces what the police service should be. But, as with every year I have no doubt I'll be asked by some *'Why all the rainbows? Why the Rainbow cars? Why the need to keep talking about Pride? Why do I need to support this – I'm not gay' "you're already accepted so why make a big deal of it?"*. I will tell those people to think about what it's like to be persecuted because of the person you love or the person you are. I will tell them that LGBT+ hate crime is still significantly under reported and that LGBT+ people are still attacked in the street in 2020 Britain because of who they are.

People do not choose to be gay, bisexual or trans, it is just who they are. And like everyone else, they have the right to feel comfortable and confident in work as well as when they walk down the street.

I do hope that by next year we will be able to march alongside each other with pride – police, communities and allies - and celebrate our support for diversity in all its forms. Happy Pride season 2020!

DCC Julie Cooke
NPCC Lead for LGBT+
June 2020

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for witnesses and dashcam footage following a fatal collision in Moreton

Officers are appealing for information from the public after a cyclist died following a collision in Moreton, near Congleton.

At around 12.40pm on Wednesday 24 June police were called to reports of a collision New Road, near to the junction of Wharf Lane. On arrival it was found that there had been a collision between a pedal cyclist and a dark grey Audi. Sadly, the cyclist, an 84-year-old local man, was pronounced dead at the scene. His next of kin have been informed and they are being supported by specialist officers. The occupants of the Audi were uninjured. No arrests have been made and enquiries into the collision are ongoing. As part of their investigation officers are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the collision or anyone with any dashcam footage which may aid their investigation. Anyone who witnessed the collision, or anyone with any information that may assist the investigation, is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, quoting IML 737861 or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/>.

Appeal following attempted armed robbery Rudheath Post Office

Detectives are appealing for information from the public following an attempted robbery at a post office in Rudheath.

At around 6.50pm on Monday 22 June three men, one armed with a machete and one with a metal bar, entered the store on Wright Avenue. Two of the men approached the counter and demanded that the store worker opened the tills and handed over all the cash from the store. The third man stood by the door throughout the incident. The men were unsuccessful in their attempts to get any cash and fled the store empty handed. They fled the scene in a grey saloon Volvo and are believed to have driven off in the direction of Gadbrook Road. During the incident the store worker sustained a minor injury to his arm after being hit with the metal bar. He did not require hospital treatment.

Detective Constable Kelly Mitchell said: *“While the offenders fled empty handed, the victim has understandably been left shaken up. As part of the investigation into the incident I am keen to hear from anyone who was in the area around the time it occurred and believes they may have witnessed something that may be relevant to our enquiries. I also want to hear from motorists with dashcams who were driving on Wright Avenue between 6.30pm and 7.15pm. If you think that you have any information that could help our investigation, no matter how small, please call the team here at Northwich on 101.”*

Anyone with any information which may assist the investigation, no matter how small, is urged to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 736488 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>.

Burglary at a house in Warrington

Detectives investigating a burglary at a property in Warrington are appealing for information.

At around 9pm on Thursday 18 June three men forced their way into the house on Georges Crescent while three people were inside. The men searched the property but fled the scene in a black car empty handed. One of men is described as being in his early 20s, around 6'2" in height and of a stocky build. The second and third man are described as being their late 20s or early 30s and of a stocky build. Officers are keen to hear from anyone who may have seen the offenders or the black car around the time of the incident.

Detective Sergeant Ian Bingley, from Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: *"This was a terrifying ordeal for victims who have understandably been left shaken by the incident. We have been following a number of enquiries and I am keen to hear from anyone who may have witnessed the car or seen anyone acting suspiciously. If you think you can help our investigation and find these men please contact us."*

If you have any information please contact Cheshire Police on 101 by quoting IML 733380 or report it via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/> Alternatively, information can be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information following racial abuse in Macclesfield

Officers are appealing for information following reports of racial abuse towards a woman and a girl in Macclesfield.

At around 6.15pm on Friday 5 June four people were walking on Market Street when an unknown male approached them. He began racially abusing two members of the group, a woman and young girl, before walking off towards Hibel Road. The male is white, around 50 years-of-age, 5'10" and of a slim build with grey hair and a long grey beard. At the time of the incident, he was wearing a grey hoodie and blue jeans. Anyone with information that could help officers with their investigation is urged to get in touch.

PC Jarrad Sainsbury said: *"Several enquiries are ongoing into this incident and we are doing everything possible to track down those responsible. We'd like to speak to anyone who was in the Market Street area at the time of the incident and anyone who believes that they may be able to give us more details about the offender. There would have been several people around the area at the time of this incident. Anyone with information is urged to get in touch by calling Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 723093 or report it to us via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/>."*

Information can also be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>

Detectives appeal for information after man is stabbed in Warrington

Detectives investigating a stabbing in Warrington are appealing for information.

Shortly before 12.30am on Saturday 20 June police were made aware of a 24-year-old man arriving at Warrington Hospital with stab wounds. He remains in hospital in a serious but stable condition with his injuries not believed to be life threatening.

Detective Constable Joe Davies, from Warrington CID, said: *"We are currently following a number of lines of enquires to establish how the man came to sustain his injuries. At this stage we believe he was attacked somewhere in the Bewsey area by two men. While the investigation progresses I am appealing to anyone*

who may have seen a man being attacked or been in the Bewsey area that night to get in touch. If you have any information including CCTV or dash cam footage which may assist the investigation please come forward."

If you have any information please contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 734374 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Information can also be provided through our website

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/>

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/>