

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## Cheshire News & Appeals



### Latest Cheshire News

#### Man charged following attempted robbery at Rudheath Post Office

A 19-year-old man has been charged following an attempted robbery in Rudheath.

Jack Joynson, of Middlewich Road, Northwich, appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Thursday 2 July, via a video link, to answer charges of attempted robbery and possession of an offensive weapon in a public place. The charges relate to an incident at a Post Office in Wright Avenue, Rudheath. Nothing was stolen during the incident, which occurred at around 6.50pm on Monday 22 June. A Post Office worker sustained a minor injury to his arm during the incident. He did not require hospital treatment. Joynson has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Crown Court, via a video link, on Thursday 30 July. Two other people – a 33-year-old man from the Northwich area and a 17-year-old boy from Winsford – have been arrested in connection with the incident. They have since been released on conditional bail.

#### 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 PCC 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.

## **Serious and Organised Crime Unit disrupt Cheshire's criminal world by infiltrating encrypted devices**

Cheshire Constabulary's Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) has sent shock waves through Cheshire's criminal world after disrupting the activity of crime gangs by infiltrating encrypted devices.

Over the past two months detectives have been monitoring a bespoke encrypted global communication service used exclusively by criminals, as part of a Europe-wide investigation working with law enforcement agencies across the continent. Unbeknown to those criminals in Cheshire, the SOCU has followed their every move, building intelligence which has led to:

- The arrest of seven men
- Around five kilos of drugs seized including cannabis and cocaine
- £92,000 cash recovered

Detectives have also seized lifestyle items including:

- Designer clothing worth in excess of £100,000
- Jewellery including high value watches, motorbikes, motor cars, mountain bikes and devices exceeding £100,000

A key part of the action taken also involved detectives mitigating the serious threats made to the lives of those associated with organised crime. Two months ago, the bespoke global service called EncroChat was cracked by international law enforcement. Since then Cheshire Police has been part of a large-scale investigation led by the National Crime Agency and worked with the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit under the codename Operation Venetic. The operation also involved regional organised crime units and police forces across the country. The EncroChat had 60,000 users worldwide and around 10,000 users in the UK. It was being used for coordinating and planning the distribution of illicit commodities, money laundering and plotting to kill rival criminals. The phones – which have pre-loaded apps for instant messaging, the ability to make VOIP calls and a kill code which wipes them remotely have no other conventional smart phone functionality and cost around £1,500 for a six-month contract. On Thursday 2 July the EncroChat servers were shut down by French and Dutch authorities.

DCI Giles Pierce, from Cheshire Police's Serious and Organised Crime Unit, said: *"The activity that has taken place over the last ten weeks will send shock waves through the criminal world. I have had a dedicated team monitoring and building the intelligence around this tactic to identify those engaged in some of the highest level of serious and organised crime. This has led to a number of arrests as well as large amounts of money, drugs and designer items seized. We have also mitigated multiple threats made to the lives of those associated with organised crime in Warrington and Widnes. We have been one step ahead of this criminality and we will remain relentless in our pursuit against those involved in serious and organised crime to make Cheshire a much safer place."*

PCC for Cheshire David Keane added: *"I would like to commend the work of the Serious and Organised Crime Unit who have been able to infiltrate encrypted devices used by criminals as part of a huge National Crime Agency operation. This sends a stark message to anyone thinking of operating in this type of criminality that police in Cheshire are working to disrupt this type of activity and make our communities safer."*

If you believe serious and organised crime is taking place in your area please contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or Cheshire Police on 101.

[Open this video in overlay mode](#)

## Two people arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of illegal drugs

Officers from Cheshire police have arrested a 24-year-old man in connection with the supply of a potentially lethal chemical.

The man was arrested on Thursday 2 July following a warrant at an address off Cinderhill, Whitegate. The warrant was conducted as part of a joint operation between Cheshire Police, West Midlands Police and the Food Standard's Agency National Food Crime Unit. The man is being held on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of class C drugs, rendering food injurious to health contrary to section 7 of the Food Safety Act, 1990, and money laundering. The arrest relates to the alleged supply of 2,4-Dinitrophenol (DNP), a toxic chemical that is sometimes sold as a diet pill for weight loss. It is poisonous to humans and can be unstable if not stored properly. A 21-year-old woman was also arrested at the address on suspicion of possession with intent to supply class C drugs (anabolic steroids). The man and woman have both been released under investigation. During the warrant officers seized a number of items, including a number of digital devices, computer equipment and suspected class C drugs.

Andy Quinn, Deputy Head of the National Food Crime Unit, who have led the investigation, said: *"It is illegal to sell DNP for human consumption as it is a dangerous industrial chemical which has been linked to a number of deaths. I would like to thank all those involved in this operation that aimed to tackle the online sale of DNP for human consumption. It is our close working partnership with local authorities, law enforcement agencies and internet companies in the UK and abroad that has enabled us to close these websites and work to disrupt possible supply chains."*

Sergeant Chris Palmer, from Northwich Local Policing Unit, added: *"This morning's arrest forms part of an ongoing investigation into the supply of DNP, an illegal drug which is often sold as a diet pill. This substance is extremely dangerous and has been linked to a number of deaths across the UK. I would like to use this as an opportunity to highlight the dangers of DNP. It is an industrial chemical and is not made to be consumed as a diet supplement. Please do not be persuaded by the claims being made, those selling DNP do not care about your wellbeing."*

## Cheshire's emergency services urge residents to not drink/drug drive as government restrictions are eased



Cheshire Police and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service are urging motorists not to get behind the wheel after drinking alcohol or taking drugs as government restrictions are eased this weekend. From Saturday 4 July many restaurants, pubs and bars will be reopening after months of closure due to the coronavirus pandemic. With many members of the public looking forward to meeting up with family and friends for a social drink or two, Cheshire's emergency services are reminding residents of the tragic consequences of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. While it may be tempting to have a drink and then drive home – it is important to remember that even one alcoholic drink can significantly affect a motorist's ability to react to their surroundings. Road safety enforcement and education is being stepped up throughout the summer months, as both emergency services have a common goal – to make Cheshire's safe for everyone.

Cheshire Police's Head of Roads and Crime Unit, Superintendent Jo Marshall-Bell, said: *"Many people will be looking forward to pubs, restaurants and bars reopening so they can finally go out and celebrate all those occasions missed during lockdown and have fun with their family and friends. We absolutely want everyone to have a great time this summer, but it is so important that road users understand the seriousness of their actions and that the consequences can be fatal. One knock on your loved ones door from one of our specialist officers can bring your family's world crashing down. No one wants to hear the news their loved one is not coming home because they took the risk and drove after having a drink, or taking drugs. We do not go out policing the roads for the sake of it – we are doing it to save lives. Six people have sadly lost their lives on our roads this month, and we want to do all we can to stop anymore from occurring."*

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's Road Safety Manager Andy Gray said: *"As a Service we spend a considerable amount of time educating road users on the dangers of drink/drug driving. We explain the consequences which one reckless decision on our roads can have – and now, more than ever, road users need to take note. Firefighters are called to the scene of collisions and do their best to rescue casualties from sometimes, quite harrowing situations. They do a great job, but sometimes it is just too late, and too many lives are lost on the county's roads as a result of something preventable. Road users can play their part in reducing the strain on the NHS by using our roads carefully and sensibly. If you are planning on having a drink, leave your car at home. Plan your journey home before you go out, chose a designated driver who stays on the soft drinks and doesn't take drugs, or pre-book a taxi so you can get home safely. It's not worth dying for."*

PCC for Cheshire, David Keane, added: *"Making Cheshire's roads safer has always been one of my top priorities and I am pleased that officers will be out making sure that road users can enjoy the summer in safety. The summer can be a fantastic time to enjoy BBQs in the sun, spend time in beer gardens, or have a drink or two with family and friends. But I want to make sure that everyone gets back home safely to their loved ones. The consequences of drink and drug driving are clear: not only would you put your own life at risk, but also the lives of other innocent road users."*

## **Chilean burglary gang jailed for more than 13 years**

Three men from Chile who travelled to the UK with the intention of committing crime have been jailed for more than 13 years.

Nicholas Oviedo, 26, Alexis Oviedo, 25, and Joel Ureta, 42, were all members of an organised crime gang that arrived in the UK in January with the sole aim of committing burglaries at high-value homes. After arriving in the country, they set up base at a hotel in Manchester and hired a car to help them commit their offences. Between Saturday 4 January and Wednesday 15 January the trio committed multiple burglaries in affluent areas of Cheshire. Thankfully, their crime spree was brought to an end when a man out walking on Legh Road, Knutsford, heard an alarm going off at a nearby address. He approached the house and noticed two men, who were acting

suspiciously, getting into the car that the trio had hired, a dark Mercedes-Benz C-Class, which was parked near to the entrance. The man made a note of the registration number and reported his concerns to Cheshire Constabulary. Officers quickly attended the scene and confirmed that there had been a break-in at the address. A police marker was subsequently placed on the vehicle. The car was later stopped by officers in Greater Manchester and the three occupants were arrested and transferred to Cheshire.

An investigation was launched by detectives from Macclesfield CID and they uncovered evidence, including ANPR data and cell-site analysis, which linked the men to at least seven burglaries, committed in the Knutsford, Alderley Edge, Wilmslow and Prestbury areas. The trio, all of no fixed address, subsequently pleaded guilty to seven counts of burglary. They were all sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 1 July. They were jailed for a combined total of 13 years and four months. Nicolas Oviedo received a four-year prison sentence. Alexis Oviedo and Ureta were both handed custodial sentences of four years and eight months.



Following their sentencing, DI Adam Alexander, who led the investigation, said: *“Nicholas Oviedo, Alexis Oviedo and Joel Ureta are all members of a sophisticated organised crime gang that travels the world intent on committing crime. The burglaries were carefully planned and the trio specifically targeted high-value homes with the aim of stealing valuable items, including jewellery, before fleeing the country and hoping to evade justice. In just 11 days the gang carried out at least seven burglaries and stole goods worth more than £118,000. Thankfully, as a result of an eagle-eyed neighbour and the work of a dedicated team of detectives, they are now facing the consequences of their actions.”*

This is the second case of ‘burglary tourism’ convictions in Cheshire in recent weeks. Following the successful prosecutions, the force is continuing to work closely with a number of agencies to deter other people coming to Cheshire to commit crimes.

DCI Clare Coleman, Crime Manager at Cheshire Constabulary, said: *“Prevention is a key part of what we do and, on the back of this case, we are working closely with agencies, including Border Force and Manchester Airport, to help identify other potential offenders and stop them from coming into the UK. Our officers are committed to doing all they can to identify offenders and stop them in their tracks. I hope that this case acts as a warning to anyone who is planning on travelling to Cheshire to commit crimes. Our message to them is don’t make a wasted journey.”*

PCC David Keane added: *“The work of organised crime gangs does not only have a devastating impact on the victims of the crimes but also on the whole community. I would like to praise the work of Cheshire Constabulary’s officers in bringing the perpetrators of these despicable crimes to justice. I also urge anyone living in our communities who may have information in relation to organised crime gangs to report it to the police or*

*anonymously to Crimestoppers. With your help, we can disrupt more of this type of crime and make our communities safer.”*

All three men will be deported to Chile, South America once they have served their sentences.

## **Call for vigilance ahead of changes to lockdown restrictions**

The people of Cheshire are being urged to remain vigilant and act responsibly as coronavirus restrictions are eased this weekend.

From Saturday, and for the first time in more than 100 days, pubs and restaurants across Cheshire will be reopening their doors to customers. In preparation for the changes, all those living in the county are being urged to play their part and to remember that the coronavirus pandemic has not gone away.

Supt Julie Westgate from Cheshire Police said: *“I understand that it's been a difficult time for everyone, particularly young people, who are keen to go out and socialise with friends. I don't want to spoil the fun and I want everyone to have a good time but please do so safely – it's essential that everyone continues to remain vigilant and acts responsibly. If you are visiting bars and pubs this weekend, drink sensibly, and pre-plan your travel and how you are going to get home. The threat of coronavirus has not gone away and while pubs and restaurants are reopening, it is really important to remember that things will not simply go back to normal. Social distancing guidelines remain in place, meaning that capacity in all premises will be limited and people will need to plan ahead.”*

A dedicated policing operation will be in place across the county and there will be an increased police presence in key areas throughout the weekend.

Supt Westgate added: *“Officers will be patrolling key locations and we will be dealing with any incidents of crime and disorder, while our local authority partners will deal with any licensing issues. We 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. I would like to take this opportunity to remind people we cannot enforce social distancing and are relying on your good nature to follow the guidance. Keep in mind the purpose of the remaining regulations and the national effort and by following the guidance and working together we can all help to protect the NHS and save lives.”*

## **Detectives issue warning after spate of hoax HMRC calls across Cheshire**

Detectives are urging residents across Cheshire to be vigilant following a spate of hoax calls from scammers claiming to be police officers acting on behalf of HMRC.

Since Tuesday 2 June, officers have received 12 reports of people receiving calls from someone purporting to be from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). The first part of the call is automated and asks the victim to press 1 in order to be connected to HMRC. A recorded message then informs the victim that they have an unpaid tax bill and that there is a warrant out for their arrest unless they pay immediately. The fraudsters then ask the victims to make a bank transfer to pay off their supposed outstanding tax bill.

DS Chris Jacques of the Economic Crime Unit said: *“In each of these cases the victims have been left understandably shaken due to the fact they have been told if they do not pay their tax bill immediately then they will be arrested. Some of the victims have been left without hundreds and, in some cases, thousands of pounds*

*due to this scam. It is important to remember that police officers and HMRC will never call you and ask you to settle the balance of a tax bill over the phone. Telephone numbers can easily be spoofed and you should never trust the number you see on your telephone display. If you receive a suspicious call, do not give any information over the phone and end the call immediately. I would advise anyone who believes that they may have been a victim to this scam to please report it to us on 101 or via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/>."*

PCC David Keane said: *"The recent rise in HMRC fraud has not only left victims without thousands of pounds but has also had a significant emotional impact, especially during this difficult period of time. As Police and Crime Commissioner I am committed to supporting victims of fraud and will ensure that action is taken against the heartless scammers who continue to try and prey on the residents of Cheshire. I would urge all residents to remain vigilant and to tell others to be wary of these scams in order to protect your friends and family against fraud."*

Anyone who believes they have been contacted fraudulently or have been a victim of fraud should call Cheshire Police on 101 and Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

## **Two men jailed following vicious and unprovoked assault in Ellesmere Port**

Two men have been jailed for a vicious and sustained assault in Ellesmere Port.

A 25-year-old man from town sustained facial injuries that required hospital treatment as a result of the incident, which occurred shortly before 12 midnight on Friday 29 May. Nathan Elliott, 26, and Dylan Johnston, 25, were in a Range Rover that drove past the victim as he moved along Princes Road on a scooter. The car stopped and Elliott and Johnston ran up to the victim. They then assaulted him using their fists, feet, a bag the victim had been carrying and a post that they pulled from



Dylan Johnston      Nathan Elliott

a nearby fence. The victim fell to the ground after being repeatedly hit in the head. He continued to be assaulted whilst lying on the floor but he managed to get back up onto his feet and run away from his attackers. Elliott and Johnston then fled the scene in the Range Rover. The incident was reported to the police and the officers who attended managed to locate the victim. He was subsequently taken to hospital in an ambulance. Officers identified Nathan and Johnston as his attackers from CCTV footage. The pair were subsequently arrested and charged with assaulting the victim and causing him actual bodily harm. Elliott, of Faraday Road, Whitby, Ellesmere Port; and Johnston, of no fixed address; pleaded guilty to the offence at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 30 June. Johnston also admitted an additional charge of possessing an offensive weapon in a public place in relation to the fence post he hit the victim with. They were sentenced on the same day, both being jailed for 18 months.

DC Iain Ross, who led the investigation at the Ellesmere Port Local Policing Unit, said: *"I am pleased that Nathan Elliott and Dylan Johnston are now behind bars facing the consequences of their actions. The attack was unprovoked and left the victim requiring hospital treatment for facial injuries. Considering the vicious and sustained nature of the assault he was subjected to, he is lucky to have not sustained more serious injuries. The consequences of this incident could have been far worse. I hope that the victim can move forward with his life now that Elliott and Johnston have been jailed for what they did to him that night. I also hope that this case deters others from committing similar offences."*

Cheshire's PCC David Keane said: *"I am glad to hear that the victim is back at home after receiving treatment for the injuries he sustained. Violent incidents of this nature are completely unacceptable and I would like to thank all the officers who have been involved in securing these convictions for their hard work and dedication. I hope that this case reassures residents that Cheshire Constabulary is committed to bringing violent offenders to justice and making our communities safer places to live, work and visit."*

## **Blackpool man jailed after grooming Warrington teenager**

A man from Blackpool has been jailed for more than five years after admitting sexual activity with a 15-year-old girl from Warrington.



Jack Parker began communicating with his victim in June 2019 via social media. Over the next six months the 32-year-old groomed the Warrington teenager and convinced her that they were in a loving relationship. On Saturday 21 December Parker travelled to the victim's home and supplied her with a mobile phone so that he could communicate with her without her parents' knowledge. He returned to the address the following day and had sexual intercourse with the victim. A week later, on the evening of Saturday 28 December, Parker collected the victim from her home and took her back to his flat in Blackpool so that the pair could once again engage in sexual activity.

He took her back to Warrington in the early hours of Sunday 29 December, so that she was home before her parents woke up. Parker arranged to meet the victim again the following weekend. However, prior to the meeting the victim's mum found the secret mobile phone and contacted Cheshire Constabulary. The phone was analysed by officers, who found numerous inappropriate images and messages linked to Parker. He was subsequently arrested at his flat in Blackpool, where officers recovered a number of other electronic devices which contained further incriminating evidence. Parker was also found in possession of a number of letters addressed to the victim and her parents. In letters to the parents he attempted to explain his actions and even asked for permission to maintain contact with the victim. He was subsequently charged with a total of 11 offences.

Parker, who was previously known as Adam Carling, pleaded guilty to three counts of sexual activity with a child and also admitted meeting a child after grooming and breach of a previous sexual harm prevention order. The remaining offences will lie on file. Parker was sentenced at Liverpool Crown Court today, Tuesday 30 June. He was handed a special custodial sentence of nine years and four months, which comprises of a custodial term of five years and four months and an extended licence period of four years.

Following the sentencing, DC Laura Gilbert, of Warrington CID, said: *"This has been a complex and lengthy investigation which ultimately uncovered Parker's despicable behaviour. It was apparent throughout the investigation that Parker is a sexual predator who preyed on a vulnerable young girl and had no regard for the effects his actions would have on the victim or her family. When interviewed, Parker showed no remorse and failed to account for his actions. Those actions were premeditated and devious. It is clear from reviewing the evidence in the case that Parker knew what he was doing was wrong, and that he went to great lengths to conceal his behaviour. I am pleased that this case has been brought to a swift conclusion for the sake of the victim and her family and I hope that Parker uses this time in prison to reflect on the devastating effects his actions have had. I would like to thank the victim for showing such bravery throughout this investigation, and her family for the support they have provided, both to their daughter and the investigation throughout. This has greatly assisted the police in bringing Parker to justice and helped to safeguard the wider community going forward. I also hope this case and the sentence that Parker has received encourages other victims of sexual*

*offences to come forward and report them to us. We treat reports of sexual offences extremely seriously, and any allegations will be thoroughly investigated, with the wishes and needs of the victim as our main priority."*

Cheshire PCC David Keane said: *"Crimes of this nature are abhorrent and often have a life-changing impact on survivors. The courage shown by the victim in this case is commendable and has undoubtedly helped to make our communities safer. As well as ensuring that justice is delivered, one of my top priorities continues to be making sure that survivors of these extremely serious crimes have access to the specialist support they need to help them to cope and recover."*

For advice on identifying signs of sexual exploitation visit [www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-exploitation/signs-symptoms-and-effects](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-exploitation/signs-symptoms-and-effects). To report a sexual offence call Cheshire Constabulary on 101. Information can also be given online at <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## **Officers from Cheshire Constabulary's Rural Crime Team arrest six people in connection with the theft of historic artefacts**

Officers from Cheshire Constabulary's Rural Crime Team have arrested six people in connection with the theft of historic artefacts following a series of morning raids in Greater Manchester.

Earlier today (30 June) search warrants were executed at seven addresses located in the Droylsden and Audenshaw areas of Manchester and relate to an investigation of unlawful metal detecting at protected heritage sites across the Midlands and Northern England. Archaeologists from Historic England's North West and Midlands regional teams provided online expertise and support for the police officers engaged in the searches. Six men aged 28, 31, 32, 32, 28 and 31 have been arrested and are helping police with their enquiries. Artefacts, metal detection equipment and cannabis was seized as part of the investigation. The artefacts will be subject to expert analysis by finds experts from the Portable Antiquities Scheme and archaeologists from Historic England.

[Open this video in overlay mode](#)

Sgt Rob Simpson from the Rural Crime Team, said: *"Today's arrests mark the culmination of an investigation of a group believed to be involved in the theft of historic artefacts from protected heritage sites. We recognise that the vast majority of the metal-detecting community comply with the laws and regulations relating to the discovery and recovery of objects from the land. But the small number of people who do remove artefacts unlawfully and damage ancient sites are depriving the community of our valuable history. Today's action sends out a very clear message that the Cheshire Police Rural Crime Team is committed to protecting our rural communities, our heritage sites and its rich source of history. I would like to take the opportunity to thank officers from Cheshire Constabulary, including Specials, officers from South Yorkshire Police and colleagues from Historic England's North West and Midlands regional teams for their support with our investigation."*

Mark Harrison, Head of Heritage Crime Strategy for Historic England said: *"Unlawful metal detecting is not a victimless crime. We may never see or fully understand the objects taken or damaged because they have been removed from their original sites with no care or record as to their history or context. Historic England will continue to work with Cheshire Constabulary, the Crown Prosecution Service and the metal detecting community to identify the small criminal minority who are intent on causing loss and damage to our shared cultural heritage and to bring them to justice."*

Jeremy Ashbee, English Heritage's Head Properties Curator, said: *"As guardians of many of the country's most important historic sites, we work closely with Historic England and local police services to combat unlawful metal detecting. We are pleased at the news that Cheshire Constabulary's investigations relating to unlawful metal detecting at Beeston Castle and Roche Abbey, have progressed in this way. Unlawful metal detecting is a serious crime, involving damage to precious archaeological sites, the theft of valuable property and the irretrievable loss of invaluable information. Unlawful metal detecting robs us of our past – and it affects us all."*

PCC David Keane said: *"I am incredibly proud of our officers and specials for their commitment to protecting our rural communities and heritage sites. Working jointly with other organisations, such as Historic England, to specifically target rural crime was a key focus of my Rural Policing Strategy and I think today's outcome sends a clear message that this continues to be a priority in Cheshire."*

## **Nine men charged in connection with county lines drug dealing in Chester**

Nine men arrested as part of an operation targeting county lines drug dealing have now been charged.

The men were all arrested on Monday 29 June following a series of dawn raid across Chester. A total of 45 officers took part in the operation, executing warrants at seven addresses in Blacon, Broughton, Upton, Saughall and Ellesmere Port. The raids were carried out by officers from Chester LPU, with the support of a number of Special Constables, the Impact Unit and officers from the Cheshire and North Wales Armed Policing Alliance. Following questioning the men have since been charged with two counts of conspiracy to supply class A drugs (heroin and crack cocaine). They have all been remanded in police custody and are set to appear at Warrington Magistrates Court later today, Tuesday 30 June. Below are the details of the nine men

- Ryan Wallace (22) of Whitchurch Road, Chester
- Ashley White (28) of Canalside, Chester
- Bradley Wong (21) of Blacon Point Road
- Ryan Sheppard (23) of Newhall Road, Upton
- Fergus Rideal (21) of Long Lane, Saughall
- Frederick Pendleton (44) of West Street, Chester
- James McLeod (30) of Hillside Road, Chester
- Alex Freeman (21) of HMP Berwyn, Wrexham
- Josseph Birthwright (21) Parkfield Road, Broughton.

## **Widnes man charged with racially aggravated public order offence**

A 58-year-old man from Widnes has been charged with a racially aggravated public order offence.

Lawrence Ogburn was arrested at his home in Chester Street at around 6pm on Monday 11 May. The offence he has been charged with relates to an incident at a convenience store on Lower Appleton Road in Widnes. The incident occurred at around 1pm on Saturday 2 May. Ogburn is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Friday 3 July to answer the charge.

## **Latest Cheshire Appeals**

### **Appeal for witnesses following serious assault in Warrington**

Shortly after 10am on Thursday 2 July officers were called to reports of an incident on Gateway Trade Park, Kerfoot Street, Warrington.

Officers attended the scene and found that there had been an altercation between two men. One of the men sustained serious injuries and was taken to Aintree Hospital. He remains in a critical but stable condition. A 24-year-old man was arrested at the scene on suspicion of assault and has been released on conditional bail pending further enquiries.

DS Candice Sivori said: *"I would like to reassure the local community that this appears an isolated incident. We have an increased police presence in the area to provide reassurance and I would urge anyone with any concerns to speak to an officer. While we have made an arrest we are continuing to appeal for information from the public. We're keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident, or anyone with any information which may assist with our investigation. The same goes for anyone who was driving in the area at the time of the incident and thinks they may have dashcam footage which may be relevant to the investigation. I'd urge anyone with any information to contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML-744483."*

## **Appeal after young woman is assaulted in Widnes**

Officers are appealing for information from members of the public following an assault in Widnes.

The victim, a 19-year-old woman from the town, was riding her bicycle along what is known locally as the Black Path that runs between Birchfield Road and Prescott Road when the incident occurred at around 4.30pm on Tuesday 30 June. As she approached a group of four unknown females, one of them dragged her off the bike. Another of them then assaulted the victim as she lay on the floor. The group – who were all white, looked to be aged between 17 and 22 and were wearing dark tracksuits – then fled in an unknown direction. The victim was taken to hospital in an ambulance. She has since been discharged after receiving treatment for the minor injuries she sustained as a result of the incident. The offender who dragged the victim off her bike had her hair tied up and was on a black bicycle with white writing. The offender who assaulted the victim as she lay on the ground had a large build and her hair down. She and the other two females in the group, who both had their hair tied up, were on foot. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are urging anyone with any information that may help their investigation to get in touch.

PC Andy Collicot, of Widnes Local Policing Unit, said: *"Thankfully the victim only sustained minor injuries as a result of this incident. However, the assault has understandably left her extremely shaken up. I would like to reassure residents that this is believed to be an isolated incident and we are doing everything we can to establish who assaulted the victim and make them face the consequences of their actions. Enquiries are ongoing and as part of our investigation we want to speak to anyone who was in the area and believes they may have seen the group of four females, either before or after the victim was assaulted. We also want to hear from anyone who thinks they may know who the females are, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them."*

Anyone with information or footage that may be relevant to the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 743226, [give the details via our website](#) or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## **Appeal following robbery in Congleton**

Officers investigating a robbery in Congleton are appealing for information from members of the public.

At around 4.30pm on Monday 29 June an unknown man entered Mossley Pharmacy on Biddulph Road and pushed a woman working there away from the till as she was cashing up. He then stole a quantity of cash from the till before fleeing on foot in the direction of Cross Lane and Congleton Railway Station. The offender is described as white, around 5' 9" tall with a slim build. He was carrying a grey rucksack with an orange top handle, shoulder straps and piping and was wearing a grey hooded jacket with the hood up, a blue face mask, olive green tracksuit bottoms and black trainers with red lining/soles. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are urging anyone with any information or CCTV or dashcam footage that may aid their investigation to get in touch.

PC Stone said: *"Thankfully the woman working in the pharmacy was not injured as a result of the incident, but the robbery has understandably left her extremely shaken up. I would like to reassure the community that this is believed to be an isolated incident and we are determined to establish who carried out the robbery and bring him to justice. Enquiries are ongoing and as part of our investigation we want to speak to anyone who was in the area and believes they may have seen the offender, either before he entered the pharmacy or as he was fleeing the scene. We also want to hear from anyone who thinks they may know who the offender is, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of him."*

Anyone with information or footage that may help investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 742443, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## **Appeal launched after man knocked off bike and threatened in Winsford**

Detectives are appealing for dashcam footage after a man was knocked off his bike and threatened in Winsford.

At around 6.50pm on Friday 26 June a man was cycling along Hill Top Avenue when a blue BMW car knocked him off his pushbike. A male passenger then got out of the car and threatened the victim with a machete. The male offender returned to the car before it drove away towards the direction of Moss Bank. Officers are now appealing for anyone who may have witnessed the incident or has dashcam footage of the BMW to get in touch.

DC John Corrigan of Northwich CID said: *"Thankfully the victim involved in this case only sustained minor injuries as a result of being knocked off his bike and was able to flee the scene. We are currently investigating several lines of enquiry but are keen to hear from anyone who may have witnessed the incident and has not yet come forward. I would also urge anyone who may have caught dashcam or CCTV footage of the blue BMW around the time of the incident in the Moss Bank, Saxon Crossway or Delamere Street areas to contact us at Northwich CID. Anyone with information, no matter how big or small, is asked to call 101 quoting IML 740260 or report it to us online at <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>

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/>