

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 9th August 2020

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Update – Man charged following domestic incident in Runcorn

A following reports of a domestic incident in the Brookvale area of Runcorn has now been charged.

The man was arrested at around 8.30pm on Saturday 8 August following an incident at an address on Cambourne Close. The 50-year-old has since been charged with sending a false message by public electronic communication network to cause annoyance, inconvenience or anxiety. The man, who resides on Cambourne Close, has been released on bail and is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates on 8 September 2020.

Man charged following serious assault in Widnes

A 33-year-old man from Widnes has been charged following a serious assault in the town.

Mark Collins, of Albert Road, was arrested in the Appleton area of Widnes at around 5pm on Wednesday 5 August. He has subsequently been charged with wounding with intent. The charge relates to an incident that occurred in Dean Street, Widnes, at around 10pm on Friday 31 July. A local man in his 20s sustained serious injuries as a result of the incident. He was taken to hospital in an ambulance and has since been discharged after receiving treatment. Collins appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court, via a video link, on Thursday 6 August. He was remanded in custody and is set to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 3 September.

Man sentenced following courier fraud in Macclesfield

A man from Birmingham who attempted to steal £8,300 from a vulnerable man in Macclesfield has been sentenced.

Shortly after 10.30am on Wednesday 28 February 2020 an 85-year-old Macclesfield resident received a phone call from a man claiming to be a police officer. The caller convinced the victim that there had been a number of suspicious transactions on his bank account and that his money was at risk. He was also informed that police believed the suspect in the case was an employee at the bank. The victim was told that in order to secure his money he needed to withdraw it from his bank, return home with the cash and a courier would call to collect it. The money would be returned to him at a later date. Believing the caller, who was extremely plausible, the man went to his bank in Macclesfield. He was told it was only possible to withdraw £1,000 which, still thinking he was assisting police, he agreed to. While waiting for his cash, the man spotted a Cheshire police poster stating that "police would never ask you to withdraw money from your bank".

Realising he was in the process of being scammed, he went straight to Macclesfield Police Station and explained the situation. Plain clothed officers made their way to the victim's house and waited in the hallway for the courier to arrive. Marcello Gaspar subsequently knocked on door and told the victim he was there to collect the cash on behalf of a police sergeant. Gaspar, of Arundel Road, Birmingham, was arrested at the address on suspicion of fraud by false representation. He pleaded guilty to the offence and on Thursday 6 August, he appeared at Chester Crown Court where he was sentenced to 15 weeks in prison, suspended for two years. He has also been ordered to complete 60 hours unpaid work.

Following his sentencing DS Chris Jacques from the Cheshire Police Economic Crime Unit said: *“To specifically target a vulnerable, elderly man with the intent to defraud him of thousands of pounds is simply sickening and I cannot understand how somebody can stoop so low as to commit such an offence. In this case, it was only due to the fact that the victim saw the police poster in the bank and realised that he was being scammed that we were able to bring Gasper to justice. Sadly, this is not always the outcome and over the past twelve months we are aware of many more victims who have lost thousands of pounds. The impact of these scams can be both financially and emotionally devastating, and in many cases the people responsible are never traced.”*

Gasper was caught thanks to a poster which had been displayed in the bank as part of a concerted campaign launched by Cheshire Police to help tackle courier fraud. The campaign has been supported by the majority of banks and building societies.

Cheshire PCC David Keane, said: *“I would personally like to thank the bank and building society managers across Cheshire who have*

been extremely proactive in displaying these posters and helping us tackle courier fraud. Those who perpetrate this type of crime are preying on, primarily, the older members of society by purporting to be from the police or a financial institution. They coerce the victim to withdraw large amounts of cash to ‘assist them in an ongoing investigation’ and then disappear with the money. The impact of these scams can be both absolutely devastating but, with the work that frontline officers are doing with the support of our banks and building societies, I hope that we are able to prevent more of this type of crime being committed.”



Three men charged following Widnes disturbance

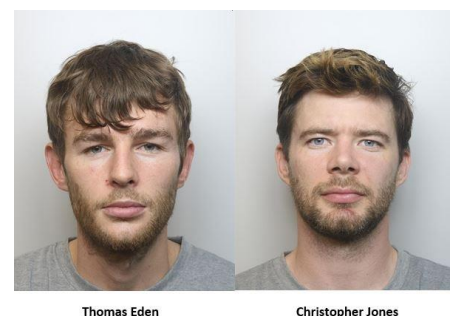
Detectives investigating a large disturbance in Widnes have now charged three men.

Luke Price, aged 52, Rueben Price, 47, and Rueben Price Jnr, 25, were all arrested by officers following an incident which occurred at around 12.30pm on Monday 3 August on Factory Lane, Widnes. Luke, of Southworth Road, Newton-le-Willows, Rueben, of Factory Lane, Widnes and Rueben Jnr, of Regent Street, Newton-le-Willows, have all since been charged with one count of violent disorder and two counts of having a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence. The trio have been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Warrington Magistrates Court today, Thursday 6 August.

Two men jailed after attacking cash machine in Orford

Two men from Merseyside who attacked a convenience store in Orford have been jailed.

The men smashed the ATM at the Co-op on Orford Lane and attacked it with a sledge hammer before using a tow rope to remove it from the premises. It was shortly after 9pm on Monday 15 June when 26-year-old Thomas Eden and 31-year-old Christopher Jones pulled up at speed in a black pick-up truck. The two staff members inside were told to get out of the way while Jones, of no fixed address, brandished a crow bar. Eden, of Lovel Road and Jones, of no fixed address, then walked into the store also armed with the sledge hammer and attempted to force the front of the ATM off. Jones then attached a tow rope to the cash machine to gain access to the discard tray. The pair then took the tray back to the pick-up truck and made off at speed. Eden and Jones abandoned the vehicle on Dudley Street and got



Thomas Eden

Christopher Jones

into a Seat Ibiza where they travelled towards Widnes before abandoning it on Ditton Road. Officers with assistance from National Police Air Support (NPAS) began a thorough search of that area and spotted Eden and Jones running through gardens. The men were arrested in the garden of a bungalow near to a pub on Halebank Road. On Wednesday 5 August both men appeared at Liverpool Crown Court for sentencing after pleading guilty at an earlier hearing. Eden was sentenced to three years and eight months for robbery and Jones was jailed for five years and eight months for robbery and absconding from HMP Thorn Cross on Christmas Eve in 2019.

DS Tom Hall, from Warrington Police's Beat Initiative Team, said: *"Eden and Jones terrified two members of staff as they brazenly robbed the store in full view of the public who were filming them in action. They had planned their attack by swapping vehicles after fleeing from the scene and then attempted to evade police by running through people's gardens and hiding in bushes. I want to thank the public who came forward to provide information, the hard work of the officers who captured the suspects and the detectives investigating the case. It certainly played a part in the men admitting to their crimes and ensuring they were put behind bars."*

PCC David Keane said: *"These two men shocked the local community as they attacked the cash machine in broad daylight in front of passers-by. I welcome the sentences handed to them and I hope it sends a clear message to other offenders who look to come to Cheshire to commit crime. I also would like to praise those members of the community who provided information to the police and to the officers who worked hard to ensure the criminals were brought to justice."*

Call for vigilance following rise in caravan thefts in Cheshire

Cheshire Constabulary is urging caravan owners to be vigilant following a rise in the number of vans being stolen in the county.

Travel restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus pandemic has led to an increase in demand for staycations, mobile homes and caravan holidays. Since the start of July four separate caravan theft incidents have been reported in Cheshire. Caravans have been stolen in Widnes, Ellesmere Port and Chester, with vans on driveways particularly being targeted.

Insp Anton Sullivan, of Cheshire Constabulary's Roads and Crime Unit, said: *"Enquiries in relation to the incidents are ongoing and I appeal to anyone with information regarding caravan thefts to get in touch. I also urge caravan owners to be vigilant, to review any security measures they have in place and to take steps to reduce their chances of becoming a victim of this type of crime. Caravan thieves often scout for desirable vans in the day before returning to steal them at night, so I also ask residents to keep an eye out for suspicious behaviour in this regard and report any suspicions to us."*

Cheshire Constabulary's anti-theft advice for caravan owners is:

- Ensure that your caravan is kept secure at all times, with all doors, windows and roof windows closed and locked
- Remember to fit hitch locks, wheel clamps and immobilisers as required as part of your insurance, even when your caravan is in storage or you are on holiday
- Hitch locks lock a car and a touring caravan together when on-site or at temporary stops en route – the law allows you to tow with the lock in place providing that the hitch still rotates correctly
- Wheel locks have the dual purpose of being a visual deterrent and an anti-theft device – the best ones will still work even if the caravan tyres are let down by thieves

- Look for Sold Secure Gold or Diamond standard wheel locks – often locks that are easy to fit are also easy to remove
- Never store valuables in your caravan – those you take away on holiday with you should be marked with your postcode, as with any accessories you use with your caravan, such as water carriers, tables, satellite dishes etc
- Always store your caravan in a safe and secure location, as detailed to your insurer
- Leaving your caravan in an area covered by CCTV and good quality lighting will deter thieves, as will leaving the hitch head parked inwards and the caravan blocked in and difficult to remove – consider security posts to keep your van even more secure
- If you are thinking of keeping your caravan in a storage site, check if your insurer has a preferred site
- Before choosing a storage site for your caravan, check online to see what crimes have been reported there and how easy it is to go and pick up your caravan and if the site operator checks your details
- When holidaying in a touring caravan, try to use registered sites which have a good level of security, such as CCTV cameras
- Installing a GPS vehicle tracker could help to locate your caravan in the event of it being stolen – if you have such a system make sure that your subscription is paid
- If you have a caravan alarm, set it – these are often linked to the tracking monitoring company and can give early notice of theft
- Register your caravan with CRiS – if it is stolen and then stopped by the police they will be able to contact you quickly
- Keep an eye out for anyone acting suspiciously where your caravan is stored, and ask your neighbours to do the same – all suspicions concerning thieves targeting caravans should be reported to the police.

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *“These opportunist thieves could not only potentially ruin someone’s staycation but could also put caravan owners at risk of losing thousands of pounds if their van is stolen. I urge all caravan and motorhome owners across the county to follow the advice from Cheshire Constabulary and check the security of their vehicles. Also, if any members of the public have information in relation to any suspicious activity in relation to caravan theft, please report it to Cheshire Constabulary or anonymously to Crimestoppers as soon as possible.”*

Anyone with any information or footage regarding the theft of caravans is asked to call Constabulary on 101, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Teenager charged with attempted murder in connection with incident in Nantwich

A 17-year-old boy has been charged after a man was found with serious injuries in Nantwich.

The teenager, of no fixed address, was arrested on the afternoon of Friday 31 July. He has subsequently been charged with attempted murder and possession of a meat cleaver. He has been remanded and appeared at Crewe Magistrates Court on Monday 3 August. On Thursday 30 July a 42-year-old man was charged with attempted murder. He appeared at Crewe Magistrates Court the following day and was remanded to appear at Chester Crown Court on 27 August. The charges relate to an incident at an address on Tailors View, Arnold Street on Sunday 27 July. A 39-year-old man sustained serious injuries to his head and was taken to hospital where he remains in a critical but stable condition. A 50-year-old man arrested on suspicion of assisting an offender has been released on conditional bail.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Two people charged following altercation in Nantwich

Detectives investigating an altercation between a number of men in Nantwich town centre have charged two people.

Kian Biddle, aged 18, along with a 17-year-old boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, were both arrested in the early hours of Saturday 8 August following an incident in the Beam Street area of the town. The pair have since been charged with Section 18 assault by joint enterprise, possession of an offensive weapon and affray. Biddle was also charged with criminal damage while the 17-year-old has also been charged with possession of a class A drug. Biddle, from Crewe, and the 17-year-old boy, also from Crewe, have both been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court later today, Monday 10 August. A 22-year-old man from Shavington who was arrested during the incident has been released under investigation pending further enquiries. While a 17-year boy from Holmes Chapel was issued with a Cannabis warning.

UPDATED - Appeal for information following reports of a disturbance in Chester

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and video footage following reports of a disturbance in Chester.

At around 7.40pm on Friday 7 August officers received reports of a dispute between a group of five men on the play area on Francis Street, Chester. It is believed that a gun may have been fired during the disturbance – although there are no reports of any injuries. Following the incident, three of the men involved are reported to have fled the scene in a grey car, which drove off in the direction of Brook Street.

DI Insp Liam Furlong said: *"I understand how concerning this incident will be for those living in the area and I want to reassure residents that this is believed to be an isolated incident. The investigation is in its early stages and I need the help and support of the local community to provide any information they may have to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice. I'm particularly keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident or anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid our investigation. I'd ask anyone with an information, no matter how small, to contact Cheshire Police either on 101 quoting IML774245 [or through our website](#). Police patrols have been stepped up in the local area and anyone with any concerns is urged to speak to an officer."*

Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111 [or via their website](#).

A 24-year-old man from Christleton has been arrested in connection with the incident. The man is being held in police custody on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life.

Appeal for information following fatal collision near Chester

Officers are appealing for information following a fatal collision near Chester.

At around 5am on Friday 7 August police were called to reports of a collision on the A41 Whitchurch Road in Chowley. Officers attended the scene and found there had been a collision between a pedestrian and a HGV. The pedestrian, a woman from the Chester area, sustained serious injuries and sadly died at the scene. The driver of the HGV, a 49-year-old man from Beechwood, Merseyside, is uninjured. The road was closed while officers dealt with the incident. The closure was lifted shortly after 2pm. Enquiries in relation to the incident

are ongoing and anyone who witnessed the collision is asked to get in touch. The same goes for anyone with any dashcam footage which may aid the investigation. Anyone with any information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML773654.

Appeal for information after plant machinery stolen from site in Congleton

Officers are appealing for information after plant machinery was stolen from an industrial estate in Congleton.

At around 11.40pm on Sunday 26 July, four unknown offenders are believed to have taken a compact tractor, power rake, a stump grinder and a tough cut deck from the site off Greenfield Road. Officers are now appealing to anyone who may have captured dashcam footage or CCTV of the offenders to come forward.

PC Georgia Creed of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit said: *“We have been following a number of lines of enquiry in relation to this incident and are determined to find those responsible. As part as of our investigation we are keen to hear from anyone who may have captured CCTV or dashcam footage of the offenders to come forward. I am also keen to hear from anyone who may have been offered the items or may have seen something suspicious in the Greenfield Road area around at the time of the incident.”*

Anyone with information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 764711 or report it to us [here](#). Alternatively, information can be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or report it via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>

Rochdale man wanted in connection with attempted burglary in Runcorn

Cheshire Constabulary is asking the public to help the force trace a man from Rochdale in Greater Manchester who is wanted in connection with an attempted burglary in Runcorn.

As well as Runcorn and Rochdale, William Loveridge has links to Elton in Cheshire and Yorkshire. The 23-year-old is white and around 5' 8" tall with a proportionate build. He has blond hair and blue eyes. Anyone who sees Loveridge is advised not to approach him but to instead call 101 as soon as possible to speak to Cheshire Constabulary, quoting incident number 20000154923. Alternatively, information regarding Loveridge's whereabouts can be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Detectives appeal for witnesses following burglary in Stockton Heath

Detectives are appealing for witnesses to come forward following a burglary in Stockton Heath.

At around 4am on Sunday 2 August an unknown male is believed to have gained entry to a property on Whitefield Road while an elderly couple were at home. A quantity of cash and jewellery were stolen from the property. Officers are now appealing for anyone with information that could help with their investigation to get in touch.

DC Vicky Hancox said: *“This was no doubt a particularly frightening incident and a number of enquiries are currently ongoing. “The jewellery taken during the burglary is of great sentimental value to the victims and I would urge anyone who may have seen anyone acting suspiciously around the time of the incident in the Whitefield Road area to come forward. The same goes for anyone who may have captured CCTV or dashcam*

footage in the surrounding areas. We are doing everything possible to trace those responsible and I would urge anyone with any information, no matter how big or small, to get in touch."

Anyone with information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 769708 or report it 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>

CCTV images released following burglary in Middlewich

Detectives have released CCTV images of a man they want to speak to in connection with a burglary in Middlewich.

A handbag containing a number of bank cards was stolen during the burglary which occurred at a house on Sutton Lane in the early hours of Thursday 23 July. The bank card was subsequently fraudulently used at a supermarket in the town. Enquiries in relation to the burglary and fraud offences are ongoing and detectives 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.

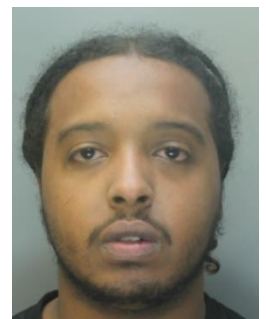


DC Scott Marshall-Bowater, of Crewe CID, said: *"The victim in this case is a vulnerable elderly woman and we are committed to doing all we can to trace the person who broke into her home. As part of our enquiries we are keen to speak to the man in the CCTV images as we believe he may be able to help with our investigation. If you think you recognise the man in the images or know who he is please contact us on 101, quoting IML 761682, 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."*

Liverpool man wanted for drug offences in Macclesfield

Police are asking the public to help them trace a wanted 24-year-old man from Liverpool.

Officers would like to speak Ammin Hassan, of Selborne Street, in relation to drug offences in the Macclesfield area. Anyone who sees Hassan, or has information regarding his whereabouts, is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting 19100580950. Alternatively, information can be given to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>



Police appeal after indecent exposures on Church Lawton canal towpath

Police appeal after indecent exposures on Church Lawton canal towpath

Police are appealing for information following reports of indecent exposure on a canal towpath in Church Lawton. At around 6.30pm on Monday 3 August a woman was jogging along the Trent and Mersey canal when the man who had been cycling along the towpath stopped and exposed himself. Another woman on a canal boat had also spotted the man's behaviour and warned two women walking along the canal. They reported seeing him behind a wall removing his trousers. During the incidents the suspect had cycled toward

Church Lawton and then back toward Kidsgrove. The man is described as white, in his 50s or 60s, of medium build with grey hair. He was wearing a black face mask, black beanie. A blue long sleeved top, or sweatshirt, black trousers and black boots.

Insp Kelly Johnston said: *"If you recognise the description or have seen this man yourself while on the canal towpath I would urge you to contact police. I would advise people who are out and about to be vigilant and report suspicious activity to police."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 770958. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Police appeal for information after a Knutsford school is vandalised

Police are appealing for information following criminal damage at a school in Knutsford.

Sometime overnight on 31 July two teenagers caused a significant amount of damage to Knutsford Academy in Bexton Road. Roof tiles were taken off the roof and thrown onto the floor and onto the green house smashing every pane of glass. Windows of the school were also damaged along with the lightning conductor and aerials. The first suspect is described as being, white, male and approximately 16-year-old. He is of slim build with brown hair and glasses. He was wearing a black hooded top black jogging bottoms and white trainers. The second suspect is described as white, male, of slim build and approximately 16-years-old. He was wearing a green or dark coloured jumper, a backpack and red jogging bottoms.

PC Luke Rose said: *"The cost of the damage to the school is thought to be in its tens of thousands. The damage caused was so extensive it is unbelievable to think someone would do this to an important part of our community. We are carrying out a number of enquiries including reviewing CCTV. Anyone who knows who is responsible or has information should do the right thing and contact police to help us find the people responsible."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 [or via our website](#) quoting IML 770520. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Public urged to be vigilant following indecent exposures in Birchwood

Officers are asking the public to be vigilant following two indecent exposure incidents at a park in Birchwood.

The first incident happened at around 5.20pm on Saturday 1 August and the second incident took place shortly after 3pm on Sunday 2 August at Walled Garden Oakwood Gate. On the second occasion the man was in bushes before exposing himself to a number of young children. The children ran away and alerted police. The man police want to speak to is described as white, believed to be aged in his 30's and was wearing a black hat, grey jacket and black trousers.

Insp Ruth Atherton, from Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: *"First I want to reassure the local community that we are working hard to locate this man and people can expect to see officers regularly patrolling the area. While I do not want to panic the public I do want people to be vigilant and I would urge parents not to allow their children go to the park on their own. If anyone knows who this man might be or has information which will assist our investigation I would encourage you to contact us."*

If you have any information please contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 769992 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Detectives appealing for witnesses following assault in Saughall

Detectives are appealing for witnesses following an assault in Saughall, Chester.

Officers were called at around 12.40am on Sunday 12 July following reports of a disturbance on Church Street. A woman sustained a serious injury during the incident and was taken to hospital for treatment. She has since been released from hospital. A 37-year-old man from Chester was arrested on suspicion of a section 47 assault. He has since been released on conditional bail pending further enquiries. Officers are now appealing for any witnesses to come forward as they believe it could help with the investigation.

DC Faye Taylor said: *"We're appealing for anyone who witnessed the incident or has any information, which could assist with our enquiries, to come forward. In particular, we're keen to trace four men who were travelling in two black cars on Church Street shortly after the incident as we believe they could have vital information, which could help with our investigation. If anyone has any information, please contact us on 101 quoting IML 752491 or report it via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/>."*

Alternatively, 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/>