

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 11th October 2020

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Warrington man jailed after assaulting man during an aggravated burglary

A 23-year-old man has been sentenced after assaulting another man during an aggravated burglary in Warrington.

Colin Williams, who was living in Toll Bar Road, Poplars and Hulme, committed the offences at a flat at Jurby Court in Padgate on Monday 2 December. He was jailed for nine years and six months on Friday 9 October after a jury convicted him of aggravated burglary and section 18 assault following a four-day trial at Liverpool Crown Court. At approximately 6.10pm Williams sent the victim a number of Facebook messages including 'you think you're smart playing hide and seek' and 'not done until I've caught you' over a dispute. Within a minute of sending the message Williams repeatedly kicked the door to the second floor flat until it burst open. He then went into the home looking for a 23-year-old man. In fear of Williams, the victim climbed out of the kitchen window and hung onto the ledge to try and avoid being seen. However Williams saw him and his hand was struck with a sharp object. This caused the victim to fall on to the concrete floor outside. The fall shattered his heels but he managed to run to safety at a takeaway nearby and asked staff to call police. Meanwhile the victim's 22-year-old girlfriend had already fled the flat to get help. He suffered an injury to one of his fingers which required surgery and broke both his heels which left him unable to walk for a number of months. Williams was arrested at his home address and was interviewed by officers on Tuesday 3 December. He replied no comment to the questions put to him and was subsequently charged.

DC Rob Thorpe, from Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: *"I am pleased the jury has convicted Williams and justice has been served for the victim who has been fully supportive throughout the case. Williams left him in complete fear. He felt he had no choice but to cling onto the window ledge to try and avoid detection. Williams knew he was hanging out of the window and still his hand was struck which meant he fell from a considerable height and sustained serious injuries to his feet. Despite being in considerable pain, he fought through this and managed to get help from the public who called police."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *"This would have been a terrifying incident for both victims so I'm glad that justice has been served. As your Police and Crime Commissioner, it is one of my key priorities that victims of crime are given the correct support to recover from their ordeal and I commission a number of services that offer tailored support to all victims of crime. I also know that Cheshire Constabulary work considerably hard to protect our communities from those who commit these offences and make our society a safer place."*

Dispersal order put in place to prevent anti-social behaviour in Bunbury Green

Officers in Ellesmere Port have issued a dispersal order following anti-social behaviour and criminal damage in the Bunbury Green area of the town.

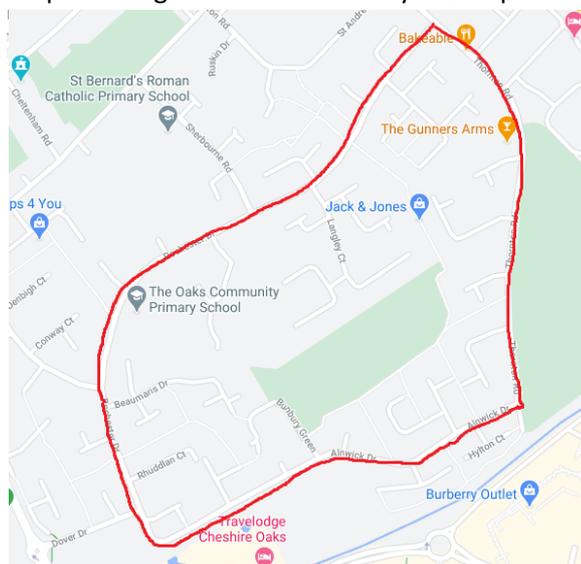
Shortly before 7pm on Thursday 8 October police were called to reports of a disturbance around the Warwick Court area of the estate. A large group of young people had gathered in the area, setting off fireworks and causing damage nearby homes. Officers quickly attended the scene, gathered vital evidence and are currently examining CCTV footage to establish the identities of those involved. The dispersal order has been imposed under Section 34 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, dispersal orders make it an offence for anyone to return to a specific area for up to 48 hours. Officers and PCSOs will be using the dispersal order powers to prevent disorder in the Bunbury Green area over the weekend. They will be used alongside the Covid-19 public health regulations currently in place, which prevent people from gathering in groups of more than six people.

CI Catherine Prichard, of Ellesmere Port Local Policing Unit, said: *“This type of behaviour is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Those involved in this kind of activity can create fear in our community and I have already visited the residents myself to assure them that we are committed to doing all that we can to tackle such behaviour. From tonight we will have additional officers out on patrols to help enforce the dispersal order and provide reassurance to local residents, we’ll new force drone on hand to collect any evidence if required. In addition, our officers are examining CCTV footage and body-worn camera and action will be taken against anyone who was involved in offences in the Bunbury Green area. It’s also important to remember that is not just about the anti-social behaviour, we are currently in the midst of a national pandemic and cases of Covid-19 are increasing every day. It’s essential that everyone adheres to the regulations which are currently in place, not only to protect yourself but also to protect your family and friends.”*

Cheshire PCC David Keane said: *“Anti-social behaviour can have an absolutely devastating impact on our communities, and I hope that the work being undertaken by Chief Inspector Catherine Prichard and her team will provide reassurance to local residents. In my role as Police and Crime Commissioner, it is also one of my key priorities that anti-social behaviour is tackled and that local residents feel safe in their communities. I will continue to work with the Chief Constable to ensure these key issues for our communities are addressed.”*

No arrests have taken place so far in relation to the disturbance and anyone with any information in relation to the incidents in Bunbury Green is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 823319, or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. Information can also be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111.

Map showing the area covered by the dispersal order:



Woman fined for failing to self-isolate when returning from holiday in Mykonos

A woman from Warrington has been fined £1,000 after failing to self-isolate when returning from holiday on a Greek island.

Officers from Cheshire Constabulary received reports that since returning from Mykonos, one of the countries included in the government's 14-day quarantine list on for travellers arriving back to the UK, the woman had left her home on several occasions – even visiting the gym three times in the week following her return. Local officers made a number of enquiries and were left with no option but to issue her with a fixed penalty notice of £1,000.

Superintendent Julie Westgate said: *“On this occasion officers from Cheshire Police have had no choice but to issue a fixed penalty notice of this nature. It’s a shame we have had to do this because the majority of Cheshire residents are sticking to the rules and are doing all they can to slow the spread of coronavirus. Unfortunately this woman put not only herself, but others at risk by consistently breaching the regulations. Our officers will always engage, explain and encourage the public to make the right decision, but in this instance they had to enforce due to the blatant flouting of the rules. We must all continue to play our part. Cheshire Police do not want to have to enforce, but in some cases such as this, it is the only way we can respond in order to protect the community, particularly in Warrington where we have seen localised restrictions due to the rising number of positive cases.”*

PCC David Keane said: *“It is disappointing to see that there is a small minority of people not following the rules. As COVID rates increase across Cheshire, it is now more important than ever that we act responsibly and do everything we can to protect those around us. We must do our best to stick to the rules in order to reduce the spread of the virus.”*

Anyone looking to report a breach of the Coronavirus legislation is urged to do so [online via our website](#). Full details of the current regulations relating to Covid-19 can be found on the [government's coronavirus section of their website](#).

Two men charged in connection with series of car thefts

Two men from Greater Manchester have been charged by officers investigating a series of car thefts.

Mark Strutt, of Glebe Street, Offerton, Stockport; and Alan Dunwoody, of Pewsey Road, Wythenshawe; were arrested when officers raided properties in Greater Manchester in the early hours of Thursday 8 October. Strutt, 42, and Dunwoody, 37, have both subsequently been charged with conspiring to steal and conspiring to commit burglary. The charges relate to the thefts of 22 cars between August 2019 and September 2020. The vehicles were stolen from Macclesfield, Disley, Congleton, Bollington, Knutsford, Northwich, Sandbach and Warrington in Cheshire and from Stockport and Altrincham in Greater Manchester. Strutt and Dunwoody appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court, via a video link, on Friday 9 October. They were remanded in custody and are set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Friday 6 November.

Appeal for information following serious assault in Crewe

Detectives are appealing for information from the public following a serious assault in Crewe.

Shortly after 12pm today, Thursday 8 October, police were called to reports that a man had been assaulted at an address on Pedley Street. Officers attended the scene and found that a 44-year-old man had sustained stab wounds. He has been taken to the Royal Stoke Hospital where his condition is described as critical. A 47-year-old local woman has been arrested on suspicion of Section 18 assault in connection with the incident. She is currently being held in police custody.

DI Claire Jesson said: *“This investigation is in its early stages and we are doing all that we can to establish exactly what had taken place. As part of our enquiries I am keen to hear from anyone who witnessed anything suspicious in the area at the time of the incident. The same goes for anyone who was driving at the time and may have any dashcam footage which could aid our investigation.”*

Anyone with information or dashcam footage that may help the investigation is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 822881, or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>.

Former football coach Barry Bennell has been sentenced for sexually abusing two young boys more than 30 years ago

Former football coach Barry Bennell has today (Thursday 8 October) been sentenced for sexually abusing two young boys more than 30 years ago.

The 66-year-old, who is currently in prison after being convicted of similar offences in 2018, appeared via video link at Chester Crown Court, where he was sentenced to an extra four years in prison – to run consecutively to his current 30-year prison term. This means a total sentence of 34 years in custody, with an additional two years on licence. In July 2020, Bennell pleaded guilty to nine sexual offences in relation to two victims. The offences include one count of buggery and six counts of indecent assault in relation to one victim and two counts of buggery in relation to the second victim. The boys were aged between 11 and 14 at the time of the offences, which date back to between 1979 and 1988.

Following sentencing, DI Sarah Oliver, who has been leading on the case, said: *“Today, Barry Bennell has been sentenced for further sexual offences against young boys. There is no doubt that he is a predatory paedophile who abused his position of trust for his own sexual gratification and the sentence handed down today reinforces that. No-one should ever have to experience what these boys did – and at such a young age. Bennell was highly regarded by many and took advantage of these budding footballers at a time in their life when he knew they were vulnerable. He knew right from wrong but continued on the path that sadly destroyed many lives along the way. He has shown little remorse for his actions – but, in this case, did spare his victims the trauma of having to re-live what happened to them during a trial by admitting his guilt. This would undoubtedly have been a very difficult and upsetting experience for them. I hope that this decision helps to provide them with some closure after so many years of pain trying to deal with and make sense of what happened to them.”*

Today’s sentencing follows on from Bennell’s previous jail term handed down in 2018 after he was found guilty of 43 offences including indecent assault, buggery and attempted buggery following a lengthy trial at Liverpool Crown Court. The offences related to 12 victims and took place between 1979 and 1991. Bennell also pleaded guilty at the start of the trial to seven further offences (bringing the total convictions to 50).

DI Oliver added: *“No-one should ever feel ashamed about talking about what happened to them – no matter how long ago that might be. We should never underestimate the impact that this type of offending has on the victims. In this case, they have shown remarkable bravery and courage and I would like to thank them for their continued support throughout the investigation. I hope that the conclusion today helps to close a painful chapter and hopefully open up a new one where they can start to rebuild their lives.”*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *“It is vitally important that victims of sexual abuse come forward and talk about what happened to them so justice can be served on perpetrators of sexual abuse. Anyone who has been a victim of sexual abuse – no matter how long ago the incident took place – is urged to come forward and report it. I will continue to work with victims to ensure they are listened to and are provided with the relevant specialist support that they need.”*

Two Liverpool teenagers charged following Warrington burglary

Two teenage boys from Liverpool who were arrested in connection with a burglary in Warrington have been charged.

The pair were both arrested on the M62 at around 1am on Tuesday 6 October, following a burglary at an address on Sycamore Lane, Great Sankey, where a car was stolen. The boys, who are both aged 17 and cannot be named for legal reasons, have been charged with two counts of burglary and two counts of aggravated vehicle taking. The teenagers have both been remanded in custody and are due to appear at Warrington Magistrates’ Court today, Wednesday 7 October.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal following burglary at fast food outlet in Runcorn

Police are appealing for information and footage from members of the public after a fast food outlet was targeted by burglars in Runcorn.

Two people wearing caps and face coverings broke into the KFC restaurant on Hospital Way near The Shopping City at around 1.45am on Monday 12 October. After carrying out an untidy search of the premises, they stole two empty tills and a sealed cardboard box that containing paperwork. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone with any information or footage that may help their investigation to get in touch.

PC Dawn Taylor, of Runcorn Local Policing Unit, said: *“The two offenders did not steal anything valuable from the KFC outlet, but burglary is a serious offence and we are determined to establish their identities and make them face the consequences of their actions. Our investigation is currently in its early stages and we are following a number of lines of enquiry, including CCTV and forensics. As part of our enquiries we want to speak to anyone who was in the area in the early hours of Monday 12 October and witnessed anything suspicious. The same goes for any motorists who were driving in the area around the time of the incident and believes they may have captured the offenders on their dashcams. We also want to hear from anyone who believes they may know who the offenders are. I urge anyone with any information, no matter how small, to contact the team here at Runcorn Police Station.”*

Anyone with information or dashcam footage that may aid the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 825830, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Appeal after boy has his bike stolen in Runcorn robbery

Detectives are appealing for information from members of the public after a boy had his bicycle stolen in a robbery in Runcorn.

The victim, a 12-year-old from the town, was riding his lime green mountain bike along Heath Road when the incident occurred near the junction with Boston Avenue at around 5pm on Sunday 11 October. An unknown man approached the boy from behind and pushed him off the bike onto the floor, causing minor injuries to the victim. The offender then rode off on the bike into the Town Hall park. He was white and looked to be in his mid to late 20s and around 6' 4" tall. The offender had a slim build and brown eyes and was wearing a black hooded zip-up top with the hood up, dark grey tracksuit bottoms, black trainers and a black face mask. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone with any information or footage regarding the robbery to get in touch.

DC Nathaniel Walkowiak, of Runcorn Local Policing Unit, said: *"The young victim has understandably been left upset and shaken up by this frightening incident. Thankfully he has his bike back. We found it at a well-known abandoned house in Irwell lane, Runcorn, around 25 minutes after the robbery took place. I would like to reassure members of the community that the fact the stolen bike has been recovered in no way diminishes our determination to establish who committed the robbery and make him face the consequences of his actions. Enquiries are ongoing and I urge anyone who was in the area and saw anything that may aid our investigation to contact us at Runcorn Police Station. The same goes for 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 the investigation is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 825523, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Spate of thefts from cars in Runcorn

Detectives are urging motorists to be vigilant following a spate of thefts in Runcorn.

Since 4.30am on Monday 5 October nine vehicles have been targeted across the town. A number of items have been stolen from inside including tools, sunglasses and small personal belongings. While enquiries to trace those responsible are ongoing, residents are being reminded to ensure their vehicles are locked and secure to reduce the chances of becoming a victim.

DS Rob McLoughlin, from Runcorn Policing Unit, said: *"In the last few days we have seen a rise in the number of vehicles targeted by thieves seeking an opportunity to steal items that have been left inside. We have been conducting a number of enquiries including CCTV and house-to-house to find those responsible. I am appealing for information on anyone who may have been seen acting suspiciously in the area since the early hours of Monday 5 October. We believe the vehicles to have been unlocked at the time and therefore I am urging everyone to ensure their cars are safely locked and secure at all times and to also remove valuable items."*

If you have any information please contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 820557 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information following attempted robbery in Middlewich

Detectives are appealing for witnesses to come forward following an attempted robbery in Middlewich.

Shortly before 8pm on Sunday 4 October an unknown man entered a convenience store on Wheelock Street. The man approached the counter and passed a note to the shop assistant, stating that he was armed and demanding that the employee hand over all the cash from the till. The store worker refused to comply and the man subsequently fled the store on foot. The suspect is described as a man, of slim build and around 6'1 to 6'4" tall. He was wearing dark grey/blue jogging bottoms, a plain black waist length zip up jacket and navy blue gloves with a white, square shaped emblem on the back of the hands. Throughout the incident his face was covered by a plain grey scarf or bandanna, he was also wearing a black baseball cap.

DC Simon Knowles said: *"Thankfully on this occasion the suspect fled the scene empty handed and there were no injuries. However, the victim in the case has been left shaken and we are keen to do all that we can to trace the person responsible. Enquiries in relation to this incident are ongoing and I am keen to hear from anyone with any information which may aid our investigation. I'd specifically like to hear from a number of other customers who were in the store at the time of the incident. I would also like to ask anyone who may have captured dashcam or CCTV footage of the suspect to come forward."*

Anyone with any information is urged to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 820302 or [report it via our website](#). Information can be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or [report it via the Crimestoppers website](#).

Appeal after three men are attacked in Winsford

Detectives are appealing for witnesses to come forward following an assault in Winsford.

At around 9pm on Thursday 1 October three men were attacked in an alleyway that runs between Delamere Street and Hilltop Avenue. The men, aged 27, 39 and 45, then attended to a pub on Delamere Street with serious injuries believed to have been caused by a machete. They were all taken to hospital by ambulance where they remain in a serious but stable condition. Detectives have been conducting a number of enquiries and are urging anyone with information to come forward.

DC John Corrigan, from Northwich Local Policing Unit, said: *"Since the attack took place we have been following a number of lines of enquiry to piece together the circumstances of the incident. At this stage we believe the attack took place in the alleyway with the men suffering slash wounds from a weapon similar to a machete. While we continue with the investigation, I am urging anyone who was either in this area, or the pub between 8.30pm and 9pm, and has information – no matter how small – to please come forward."*

If you have information please contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 818070. Information can also be submitted through the police [website](#)

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/>