

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Cheshire News & Appeals



### Latest Cheshire News

#### Man jailed for firing a gun towards another man in Chester

A 24-year-old has been jailed after firing a gun towards another man in Chester.



Alex Mills, of Whitchurch Road in Christleton on the outskirts of Chester, pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He was sentenced for the offence at Birmingham Crown Court on Wednesday 23 September. Mills was jailed for 16 months. The incident occurred shortly after 7.30pm on Friday 7 August. After confronting two men in Francis Street, Chester, Mills pulled out a handgun. He then fired it towards one of the men, who dove for cover, before Mills fled in his grey Peugeot 208. The bullet did not hit anyone and firearms officers attended the scene after witnesses reported the incident to the police. After obtaining descriptions of the shooter and his car, officers found the vehicle on Hoole Road in Chester the following morning. The vehicle was registered to Mills and a manhunt ensued. Aware that officers were looking for him, Mills handed himself in to a police station at around 7.30pm on Saturday 8 August. When questioned in custody, Mills denied being involved in the incident and claimed that he had been the victim of a carjacking on Sandrock Road in Christleton on the afternoon of Friday 7 August. However, after finding no evidence to back up his claim that three men had stolen his car before the shooting incident took place and witnesses subsequently identifying him as the man who fired the gun, Mills pleaded guilty to the offence he was charged with when the case went to court.

Following his sentencing, DC Faye Taylor, who led the investigation on behalf of Chester CID, said: *“We managed to identify Alex Mills as the offender and have him in custody within a day of the firearm incident occurring. However, when he was in custody he told lie after lie to the officers who questioned him about the incident. After establishing that his carjacking claim was a complete fabrication, we were always confident of Mills being convicted and jailed for his actions on the night of Friday 7 August. The known link between Mills and the man from Chester that he fired a gun towards is that they were both previously in a relationship with the same woman. Thankfully no-one was injured as a result of the incident and Mills is now behind bars facing the consequences of his actions. He had access to a viable firearm and showed that he is willing to endanger the lives of others. As this case shows, such serious criminality will not be tolerated by Cheshire Constabulary and I would like to thank the members of the public who helped us untangle Mills’ web of lies and remove him from our streets. With witnesses identifying Mills as the shooter via our ID process, he was left with no option other than to admit his guilt when the case went to court.”*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, added: *“Incidents of this nature understandably concern the whole community. I know that Cheshire Constabulary does considerable work to tackle serious crime and take illegal weapons and the people who are willing to use them off our streets. I want to take this opportunity to praise all the officers and detectives involved in securing this conviction for all their hard work, and I hope that this case deters others from committing similar offences.”*

Enquiries are ongoing in a bid to find the handgun that Mills fired. Anyone with information regarding the locations of any illegal weapons in Cheshire is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>.

## **Man charged with murder following death of Macclesfield man**

A man has been charged with murder following the death of a man in Macclesfield.

Andrew Anderson, also known as Andrew Aisu, of Stirling Close, has been remanded into custody and is due to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Saturday 26 September. At 2am on Wednesday 23 September officers attended an address on Stirling Close following reports of a man with serious injuries. The victim – Peter Kirkham, aged 45, from Macclesfield – died a short time later at the scene despite the best efforts of paramedics. Peter's family have been informed and formal identification has taken place. They are currently being supported by specialist officers. Aisu, aged 35, was arrested on Wednesday 23 September and subsequently charged on the afternoon of Friday 25 September.

Peter's brother Paul has paid tribute to him. He said: *"Peter was a loving son, brother and father. He was a nice and mischievous man with a kind heart and would take anybody into his home. He looked out for me and was very caring. We will miss him very much."*

## **Gang jailed for over 28 years for class A drugs conspiracy in Chester**

A gang of men who supplied crack cocaine and heroin in Chester city centre have been jailed.

The eight men were part of a criminal enterprise that used flare messages to advertise the sale of drugs to users. Alex Freeman, aged 21, set up the gang which was then controlled by 23-year-old Ryan Wallace following his arrest. He relied on Bradley Wong, 21, to help manage the deals to those on the street while Ashley White, 28, Joseph Birthwright, 21, and Frederick Pendleton, 44, were entrusted to deliver the drugs to the users directly. They recruited 21-year-old Fergus Rideal as the driver where he would take them to Liverpool on a number of occasions. The gang operated using at least three graft phones, with James McLeod, 30, using them on a number of occasions. Their activity was monitored by detectives between 30 September 2019 and 29 June 2020. They are estimated to have supplied 100 deals of 0.1g of class A per day. Following a timely operation the men were arrested during a number of dawn raids across Blacon, Broughton, Upton, Saughall and Ellesmere Port on Monday 29 June 2020. The men were sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 September after admitting to their crimes at an earlier hearing. Two of the men were given suspended sentences.

DS Stuart Needham, of Chester Local Policing Unit, said: *"These men were part of a fully established criminal network who had been operating drugs in the city for a while. The gang had a large customer base with the majority addicted to crack cocaine and heroin. They supplied them with the drugs with the sole purpose of making a substantial profit. In order to get to the root of this problem and target those who were at the top of the tree we had to undertake a lengthy and covert operation to ensure we disrupted the supply of the drugs. We are grateful to the public who came forward to provide us with information as it was crucial to the investigation and I want to encourage them to keep showing their support and coming forward to report it."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *"This is great news for those living in the community who have no doubt been impacted by the actions of the men involved in this conspiracy. Preventing and protecting Chester from*

*serious and organised crime is a priority in my Police and Crime Plan and I am once again really proud of the detectives who have dismantled another organised crime group. I want to add that the public have played a part in providing police with important information which hugely supported this outcome."*

If you believe drug activity is taking place in your community please report it to police either anonymously through Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111 or Cheshire Police on 101.

## **Arrests made and vulnerable people safeguarded during county lines week of action in Cheshire**

Criminal linked to county lines have been targeted during a week of action in Cheshire.

Officers arrested 14 men and five women on suspicion of drug offences and executed a number of warrants which resulted in heroin and cocaine being seized. At least 12 people who were identified as victims of cuckooing were visited by police and provided with specialist support and advice. Cuckooing is a term used to describe gangs who take over a vulnerable person's home to use as a drugs den. Officers also engaged with 24 vulnerable adults and children who could have been targeted or exploited by organised crime gangs.

Macclesfield Local Policing Unit also ran an operation with British Transport Police (BTP) to target those using the railway to transfer drugs into the area and identify those who may have been exploited to carry out this activity. Meanwhile officers from Northwich Local Policing Unit engaged with children at train stations in Hartford, Greenbank and Winsford. Officers from Crewe and Widnes Local Policing Units assisted Northumbria Police with an operation to target a significant organised crime group. Two men were arrested and class A drugs were recovered in Sandbach.

The week of action, which took place from Monday 14 September, was part of a national focus on county lines drug activity co-ordinated by the National Crime Agency (NCA) and the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC). A county line is operated by an organised crime group (OCG) who use a mobile phone, known as a line or a graft to extend their criminal activity business into new locations – usually from a city into rural locations.

DI Eli Atkinson said: *"Targeting those suspected of being involved in serious and organised crime, specifically county lines, is something we do relentlessly on a regular basis. The week of action enabled officers to go that extra mile by informing the public of what we're doing and how they too can look out for signs of children and adults who are vulnerable to organised criminals and report it. Throughout the week we carried out a range of activity including disrupting gangs by making arrests and seizing drugs but we also had a big focus on identifying and engaging with people whose homes are being taken over by drug dealers. It is these victims who are at the centre of county lines and can often be forgotten which is why we give talks in schools, speak to residents in our community and visit businesses to raise awareness."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *"Preventing and protecting Cheshire's communities from serious and organised crime continues to be a key focus of my Police and Crime Plan. This week of action is testament to the work officers do day in day out to protect our communities and vulnerable adults and children from organised crime gangs."*

To learn how to spot the signs of drug activity taking place in your community or children and vulnerable adults being exploited by organised crime groups please visit our website. To report serious and organised crime please call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or Cheshire Police on 101.

## Anti-burglary packs to be delivered to vulnerable Runcorn residents

A project to help vulnerable people protect their homes from criminals will see anti-burglary packs delivered to more than 600 homes in Runcorn from next week.

Organised by Runcorn Local Policing Unit (LPU) as part of their multi-faceted approach to tackling burglary offences, the initiative has been boosted by a £4,000 Tesco Bags of Help grant and donations from Halton Borough Council and two housing associations. The council has offered to donate around £4,000 to the Protecting Vulnerable People From Burglary project. Halton Housing and Onward Homes have both donated more than £1,000 to the Protecting Vulnerable People From Burglary project. Their housing officers will join police officers and PCSOs in delivering anti-burglary packs to elderly and vulnerable Runcorn residents from Monday 28 September. The packs contain:

- Window alarms and door chimes to immediately alert homeowners of a break-in
- Lights timer switches to give would-be burglars the impression that someone is at home when there isn't
- SelectaDNA liquid to enable people to mark their property with a unique DNA identifier so that the police can easily trace it back to them in the event of it being stolen and recovered
- A magnifying glass to enable all residents to read the ID of anyone who calls at their home
- Leaflets detailing Cheshire Constabulary's advice on how residents can reduce their chances of becoming a victim of burglary.



**PC Chris Jones, Onward Homes' Louise Croft, Sergeant Jeffrey Cantrell and PCSO Georgina Griffiths are ready for the anti-burglary packs deliveries**

DS Rob McLoughlin, of Runcorn LPU, said: *"The project was devised last year following a spike in burglary incidents in Runcorn in which the victims tended to be vulnerable residents. It ties in with Operation Shield, a forcewide initiative to tackle burglary offences. Burglary is a serious offence in which victims are targeted at their own home, which is the place that they should be able to feel most safe. We have a multi-faceted approach to tackling burglary offences which involves education, awareness and various forms of action to prevent burglaries and bring offenders to justice. This project gives us another string to our bow in that regard, with the anti-burglary packs proving vulnerable residents with key tools to lessen the chances of them becoming victims. The packs have been funded by a Tesco Bags of Help grant – which we were awarded for the Protecting Vulnerable People From Burglary project following a public vote – and donations from Halton Housing and Onward Homes. I can't thank the housing associations, Tesco and the people who voted for the project to receive a grant from the supermarket chain enough for their help and support and we are looking forward to delivering the anti-burglary packs from next week to Runcorn residents we have identified as being vulnerable."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, added: *“This project will support so many vulnerable Runcorn residents to protect their homes from burglars. It is a deeply upsetting experience being the victim of a burglary and I know that Cheshire Constabulary does extensive work to tackle burglary offences. However, there is only so much that the police can do. These new anti-burglary packs will give residents important tools to protect their own homes in the run up to a period which traditionally sees an increase in burglaries, with the nights drawing in and Christmas approaching.”*

Halton Housing Customer Engagement Officer Debbie Jameson said: *“We’re delighted to be supporting the Protecting Vulnerable People From Burglary project, which many of our customers will benefit from. As well as ensuring that our homes are safe and secure, as a large landlord in the borough we recognise that we have an active part to play in the wider community in helping to reduce burglaries and crime in general.”*

Onward Homes’ Safer Neighbourhood Specialist Kevin Byrne added: *“We are working closely with Cheshire Constabulary to provide tenants in Runcorn with anti-burglary packs in an effort to reduce the risk of burglary and enable them to feel safer within their own homes. The programme is due to begin next week and selected tenants will be notified. Customers should contact Onward Homes on 0300 555 0600 with any questions.”*

*The destinations of a large proportion of the anti-burglary packs have already been decided. However, if anyone wants to make an enquiry about getting one for themselves or a family member [they should email Dawn Taylor at Cheshire Police](#) with their name, age, address and any additional information they feel is relevant.*

Cheshire Constabulary’s anti-burglary advice includes:

When you are at home

- All windows should be closed and all doors should be locked even when you are inside your home or in the garden
- Use the security measures on modern windows, which allow them to let some air in but still be locked
- Never leave your car keys, house keys, purse or wallet on display near a door, window or cat flap – a thief can hook keys and other valuables through even a small opening
- Keep all valuables out of sight of prying eyes
- Do not let anyone you don't know into your home who calls unexpectedly – if you do answer the door, make sure you have it on the chain and ask for identification
- Always check the identity of doorstep callers by telephoning the company they are claiming to be from – use the number listed in your local phonebook or on the company’s website, never use a number the doorstep caller gives you.

When you are going out

- Make sure that all of your doors and windows are closed and locked, even if you are only going out for a few minutes
- Double lock any door
- Make sure that any valuables remain out of sight
- Never leave car documents or ID in obvious places, such as kitchens or hallways
- In the evening, shut the curtains and leave lights on
- If you are out all day it is advisable to use a timer device to automatically turn lights and a radio on at night

- Set your burglar alarm – you need to make sure that it has been installed properly and works
- Make sure side gates are locked
- Lock your bike inside a secure shed or garage, to a robust fitting bolted to the ground or wall, like a ground anchor.

#### When going away on holiday

- If you are off on holiday and wish to post anything about it on social media, make sure your posts are not public and that they are only seen by your friends
- Leave lights and a radio on a timer to make your home appear occupied
- Get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property, or join a neighbourhood watch scheme
- Consider asking your neighbours to close curtains after dark and to park on your drive
- Remember to cancel newspaper and milk deliveries.

#### Other anti-burglary tips

- Always avoid keeping large amounts of cash in your home
- If you are replacing or fitting new doors and windows, get ones that are certified to British Standard BS7950 (windows) or PAS 24-1 (doors)
- Fit mortise locks (Kitemarked BS3621) to all front and back doors, as well as locks to all windows which are easy to reach
- Never leave a garage, shed or other outbuilding unlocked and easy prey for opportunist thieves
- Fit strong padlocks to outbuilding doors and make sure the doors are solid enough not to be kicked in
- Good external security lighting can put off or draw attention to a thief/burglar – motion-activated flood lights and high efficiency low energy lighting controlled by a dusk-to-dawn switch are advised
- If you have external security lighting that comes on when sensing movement, make sure the lights are directed downwards to prevent them from being annoying to neighbours and dangerous to passing traffic
- Strong fencing or gates will make it difficult for intruders to get onto your land
- Solid fences or walls, particularly those with a flat or rounded top, are relatively easy for a burglar to climb over – fixing trellising to the top will make it more difficult
- Check for weak spots where a thief could get onto your land, such as a low or sagging fence or a back gate with a weak lock
- A thorny hedge along the boundary of your property can put thieves off, as can gravel areas due to the noise of walking on them.

More advice is [available online via our website.](#)

## **People of Cheshire urged to play their part in the continued fight against coronavirus**

The people of Cheshire are being urged to keep playing their part as further restrictions are introduced in the fight against coronavirus.

Six months to the day after England first went into lockdown, those who live and work in the county are being reminded of new measures, which came into force this week. The rules apply to all areas of Cheshire – and include the “rule of six” – and coincide with additional specific measures for those living in Warrington and Halton.

ACC Jenny Sims said: *“The past six months have been a challenging time for us all but the people of Cheshire have come together and shown great solidarity and community spirit in the fight against this deadly virus. Now more than ever, as we enter a new phase of restrictions, we need the continued support of the local community in an effort to reduce the spread. It is clear that we all have a very important part to play over the coming weeks and months. COVID-19 is very much still out there, we must not let our guard down and the personal choices that we all make are crucial to protect others. We do not want to stop people from being able to do the things they enjoy but this needs to be done in a responsible and measured way to reduce any further spread of the virus as much as possible. Here in Cheshire we are in an unusual position in that a large proportion of the county is now facing tighter restrictions due to a sharp rise in cases. New measures are now in place for those living in Warrington, Widnes and Runcorn meaning that residents are no longer able to socialise with other households in their homes or private gardens. As a force we will continue to support the public to navigate the measures in place but we need local residents to take personal responsibility and make sure they are fully aware of the rules that apply to them in the part of the county they live in and ensure they stick to them. The rules are there for a reason – to keep us all safe – and we all need to play our part to protect our family, our friends, the communities we live in and, most importantly, the NHS.”*

Cheshire Constabulary is continuing to work closely alongside the four local authorities – Warrington, Halton, Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester councils – as well as colleagues in Public Health and other agencies to ensure that residents, shoppers and businesses are acting within the regulations in every part of the county. The ‘rule of six’ remains in place meaning that people can no longer meet in groups of more than six – whether inside or outside anywhere in Cheshire. It also means that all hospitality, leisure, entertainment and tourism businesses will have to close by 10pm. Those that do not comply risk being fined or premises closed for breaches. There is now an increase in fines of up to £200 for people not wearing face masks, or those breaking the ‘rule of six’. In Cheshire, officers will continue to adopt the 4 E’s approach – engaging with people, explaining the law and encouraging individuals to follow the rules, but they will not hesitate to use enforcement where they have to.

ACC Sims added: *“The vast majority of people have been listening to the advice, sticking to the rules and following the guidance in place to limit the spread of the virus. However, it is disappointing that a small minority are still choosing to flout the regulations in place and, with the infection rate spreading rapidly, we will not hesitate to take action where we need to – especially for the most serious breaches. We will not allow those who continue to ignore the rules to reverse the hard work and efforts of everyone else.”*

Cheshire’s PCC David Keane added: *“The people of Cheshire need to remain vigilant, act responsibly and do everything they can to keep themselves and others safe. Over the past six months the vast majority of residents have followed the government’s advice and I hope that this continues as further measures are introduced. It is as important than ever that everyone who lives and works in the county plays their part and continues to closely follow the advice in a bid to halt any further spread of the virus to help protect the NHS and save lives.”*

Full details of the current regulations relating to Covid-19 can be found on [the Government website](#).

## **New community policing model for Cheshire**

- Local police working more closely with local communities to meet local priorities.
- Dedicated police officers and PCSOs for each 122 policing community
- Accessible police base in the heart of each community

- £200K funding package to deliver local projects which tackle crime and ASB

Cheshire Police has today launched its new approach to community policing, which will see dedicated police officers assigned to each of the county's 122 policing areas to tackle crime and support communities. The initiative has been developed by Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) David Keane who is striving for Cheshire to be the leading police service for delivering community policing. It builds on the already successfully delivered initiative to provide a dedicated PCSO and police community base for each area.



The new community police officers will work with their fellow PCSO, the wider policing team, and key partners to build relationships within the community, sharing the same mission to solve problems at their root-cause before they become more serious. They will spend more time in the heart of their dedicated communities and be given time to deal with issues that matter most to local residents. Another benefit of the changes is local residents will have more opportunities than ever before to directly contact their officers - either online, through social media, or face-to-face during police surgeries.

The work of the new community policing teams will be supported by a funding package for each community, made available by the Police and Crime Commissioner from money seized from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. This will consist of a £1,000 funding pot for all 122 communities and an additional £10,000 for all eight policing units that local people can bid for to deliver projects which work with the local policing team and key partners to address specific issues. By investing this money back into communities, the Commissioner hopes this sends a clear message that crime doesn't pay.

*PCC David Keane said: "My focus will always be to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour, support victims and protect vulnerable people. I believe the best way to do this is by delivering a truly local police service that is fit for the future and an integral part of our communities. This project is about local police working more closely than ever before with local communities, to meet local priorities. With the support of Cheshire residents, we have been able to increase our officer numbers, which has helped make this next stage possible. Delivering it has been a key budget priority for me this year and I am pleased we have been able to deliver this initiative despite the challenges that Covid-19 has posed and continues to pose on our communities. I'm confident having dedicated officers will build on the success we've already had in providing each community with a dedicated PCSO and its own community base and will allow us to stay connected to our communities in light of new coronavirus restrictions. For me, community policing is an integral part of*

*protecting our communities and my ambition is to make Cheshire the best in the country at community policing. I know that we can only achieve this by investing in our communities and our workforce to ensure policing teams and local residents are given the support and tools they need to make our communities safer."*



Chief Constable Darren Martland added: *"This is a big step forward and exciting development in our policing model. Dedicated police officers will work with PCSOs, volunteers, partners and, most importantly, the communities that we serve, to adopt a preventative and problem solving approach to dealing with the issues that most affect our communities"*.

To find out who your community police officer and PCSO are and where you can meet them in your community, please visit: [www.cheshire.police.uk](http://www.cheshire.police.uk)

## **Runcorn man charged with three offences after car stopped on the M6**

A 33-year-old man from Runcorn has been charged with three offences after officers stopped a car on the M6.

The blue Renault Scenic was stopped between junctions 22 and 23 on the northbound section of the motorway shortly before 3.30am on Monday 21 September. Steven Maughan, of Warrington Road, Runcorn, was arrested at the scene. After being questioned by officers in custody, he has been charged with going equipped for theft, fraudulently using a false number plate and driving without insurance. Maughan has been released on conditional bail and is due to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Thursday 8 October.

## **Woman jailed after heroin and cocaine discovered following warrant at Warrington home**

A 28-year-old woman has been jailed for four years after officers found heroin and cocaine with a street value of £2,410 during a warrant at her address.

Terrie Renwick, of Vulcan Close, Warrington pleaded guilty and was sentenced to four years imprisonment at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 17 September. Officers executed a warrant at her address on 16 July 2020. While there, they found Renwick with her hand down the toilet. She was detained and officers began to search the 'U' bend of the toilet. When nothing was found, officers turned their attention to an external waste pipe and followed it to a grid outside the property. The officer opened the grid and found what they believed to be heroin and cocaine. A taser, phone and quantity of cash were also discovered during the raid. Further examination revealed that there was 120 wraps of cocaine and 121 wraps of heroin. Renwick was subsequently arrested and charged with possession with intent to supply class A drugs and possession of a taser.

PC Andrew Dolan said: *"I welcome the sentence which has been handed down from the courts to Renwick. This result means that we have prevented heroin and cocaine reaching the streets of Warrington and I hope that it will send a strong message to those who think they get away with any aspect of illegal drug activity in our community. We will continue to do everything we can to remove illegal drugs from our streets and I would ask the public to please contact us with any concerns about drugs in their neighbourhood as we will act on all information provided to us."*

PCC for Cheshire, David Keane said: *"I would like to thank the officers involved in this case for taking another drug dealer off the streets and securing a fantastic result from the courts. By removing drugs from the street we are preventing them from getting into the wrong hands and causing misery across Cheshire. I would urge everyone who has been affected by illegal drug activity to report it to Cheshire Police on 101."*

## **Widnes man jailed following serious assault using a screwdriver and scissors**

A 33-year-old has been jailed after stabbing a fellow Widnes man with a screwdriver and a pair of scissors.

Mark Collins, of Albert Road, pleaded guilty to wounding with intent at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 3 September. He returned to the court to be sentenced on Friday 18 September. Collins was jailed for eight years, and given an additional four years on licence. The incident occurred at a flat in Dean Street, Widnes, on Friday 31 July. The victim, a local man in his 20s, had been told by a friend that Collins was looking for him. He let Collins, an acquaintance of his, into the flat at about 10pm. Once inside, Collins grabbed a screwdriver from the top of a book unit, demanded money from the victim and threatened to stab him. With the victim stating that he did not have any money, Collins stabbed him twice in the side, once with the screwdriver and once with scissors that were in the flat. Collins also threw the victim around the flat and strangled him. After being stabbed by the scissors, the victim managed to climb out of a window and escape to a friend's address. Collins had tried to pull him back in from the window. Police and paramedics were called to the friend's address and the victim was subsequently taken to hospital to receive treatment for the injuries he sustained as a result of the incident. None of the injuries were serious ones and he was discharged the following day. Police quickly identified Collins as being the man responsible for the victim's injuries but he fled when officers knocked at his door. Following a sustained manhunt, Collins was located and arrested in the Appleton area of Widnes at around 5pm on Wednesday 5 August. He denied assaulting the victim when interviewed in custody but pleaded guilty as soon as the case progressed to a crown court.



Following his sentencing, DC Rob Catterall, who led the investigation on behalf of Widnes Local Policing Unit, said: *"Mark Collins subjected the victim to a vicious and sustained assault in a bid to steal money from him. The victim sustained two puncture wounds to his side, as well as minor injuries to his neck, stomach and arm, before managing to escape Collins' clutches. He had no idea that he was going to be assaulted when he let Collins into the flat, and the frightening ordeal he was forced to endure understandably left him extremely shaken up. I am delighted that Collins is now behind bars facing the consequences of his actions and I hope that the culmination of this case and the length of the custodial sentence he has received gives his victim some closure and enables him to begin to move forward with his life. I also hope that this case and the sentence imposed by Liverpool Crown Court deters others from committing similar offences."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, added: *"Considering the nature of the assault he was subjected to, the victim in this case is lucky to have not sustained more serious injuries. Violent incidents of this nature are completely unacceptable, and I would like to thank the officers who have been involved in securing this conviction 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."*

## **New Chief Inspector at Chester Local Policing Unit**

Chief Inspector Gareth Wrigley is taking the reins at Chester Local Policing Unit this week.

He succeeds Steve Griffiths, who is moving to another role within the force. Gareth originally joined Cheshire Constabulary in 2001, and during his career he has worked in a variety of operational roles across the county, most recently as the Chief Inspector for the Roads and Crime Unit. Prior to serving as a Chief Inspector, Gareth worked as a Critical Incident Manager and a Force Incident Manager and led the training for armed policing and police dogs across both Cheshire and North Wales. He also works on the National Police Chiefs' Council vehicle crime portfolio that endeavours to prevent, reduce and detect vehicle crime offences nationally. Gareth is joining a well-established team of officers at Chester, including Inspectors Emma Parry, Anna Galloway and Brian Green and Detective Inspector Nick Henderson.



*Gareth said: "I have served with Cheshire Constabulary for more than 18 years and am so proud to be taking up the role of Chief Inspector at Chester Local Policing Unit. I am looking forward to bringing my experience and skills to Chester and the various teams and people I will be working with. I am keen to make sure that the dedicated, committed and professional people who work with me are able to fulfil their potential and make a real difference every day. As a local resident, I know that the team here already do a fantastic job of protecting the local community and I look forward to working with them to help make Chester and all the surrounding villages even safer places to live, work and visit. My focus will be listening to and really understanding the needs and concerns of the communities we serve, to ensure that the team can continue to deliver an effective service, both now and in the future. I will ensure that we continue to work closely, alongside local people and our key partners within the community, to help reduce crime in the area, and I encourage residents to get in touch if they have any issues or concerns that they want to raise."*

Outside of work, Gareth enjoys running, cycling and generally keeping fit. He is a football and motorsport fan and likes nothing more than spending time with his family and friends.

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *"I would like to congratulate Gareth on his new role. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience and I am sure that he will make a great addition to the leadership team at Chester. Local policing is a priority for me and I am pleased to see the local LPU continues to have highly experienced and professional officers at its helm who care about their officers and staff, as well as the residents and businesses they serve."*

## **Latest Cheshire Appeals**

### **Investigation launched following fatal collision near Congleton**

An investigation has been launched after two people died in a collision in Marton, near Congleton.

At around 3am on Sunday 27 September an officer came across a car that had collided with a tree on Congleton Road. Sadly, the two occupants of the grey Mini Cooper were pronounced dead at the scene.

Formal identification has not yet taken place but they are believed to be a 22-year-old man and a 32-year-old woman both from the Congleton area. Their families have been informed and are being supported by specialist officers. An investigation into the circumstances of the fatal collision has been launched. Anyone with any information or dashcam footage that may aid the investigation is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 814688, or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>

## **Appeal for information and footage following fatal collision in Handforth last month**

Officers investigating a fatal collision in Handforth have renewed their appeal for information.

The incident on Dean Road, which becomes Handforth Road, involved a black Suzuki Grand Vitara car and a cyclist. It was reported to the police around 1am on Saturday 22 August. Officers attended the scene and discovered that the cyclist had sustained serious injuries. Sadly, the 43-year-old local man was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics. His family are being supported by specialist officers. The driver of the SUV car stopped at the scene following the collision. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and no arrests have been made. The enquiries that have been carried out so far have established that the cyclist was lying in the road when the collision occurred. Officers want to speak to anyone who was in the area and believes that they may have seen the cyclist prior to the collision, or captured relevant footage on a dashcam. They particularly want to talk to a woman with dark hair who was driving a small black saloon car, possibly a BMW, along Dean Road around the time of the incident, between 12.40am and 1am. Anyone with information or dashcam footage that may aid the investigation is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 786461, or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>.

## **Appeal following arson incident in Ellesmere Port**

Detectives are appealing for information and footage from members of the public following an arson attack in Ellesmere Port.

At around 10.20pm on Tuesday 22 September firefighters were informed of a parked car being on fire in Smithy Lane, Little Sutton, Ellesmere Port. The blaze caused extensive damage to the orange Peugeot 2008 before being extinguished by firefighters. The fire is believed to have been started deliberately. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone with any information or footage that may aid their investigation to get in touch.

DC Iain Ross, of Ellesmere Port CID, said: *"Fire spreads quickly and can put lives as well as properties and possessions in danger. The car was parked near to a building, but thankfully firefighters were able to extinguish the fire before it had chance to spread beyond the vehicle. The car sustained extensive fire damage but no-one was injured as a result of the blaze. The consequences of this incident could have been far worse. I would like to reassure members of the community that this is believed to be an isolated incident and we are determined to establish who started the fire and make them face the consequences of their actions. As part of our ongoing enquiries we want to speak to anyone who was in the area and believes they may have seen something that could help our investigation. We also want to hear from anyone who thinks they may know who started the fire, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them."*

Anyone with information or footage that may be relevant to the investigation is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 811562, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## **CCTV images released following robbery incident at Warrington store**



Officers have released CCTV images of a man they want to speak to in connection with a robbery incident at a convenience store in Warrington.

A woman working at the store in Chapel Lane, Burtonwood, was threatened by a man holding a sharp instrument after challenging him as he attempted to leave the shop with items that had not been paid for. He then fled with the stolen items in the direction of the Chapel House pub. Enquiries in relation to the incident, which occurred at around 4.30pm on Thursday 17 September, are ongoing. Detectives believe that the man in the CCTV images may be able to aid their enquiries.

DS Mark Naylor, of Warrington CID, said: *“This incident has understandably left the store worker extremely shaken up. We are determined to establish who threatened her with a sharp instrument and stole the items from the store and have him brought to justice. As part of our ongoing enquiries we have released CCTV images of a man we believe may have important information to help our investigation. If you think you recognise the man in the CCTV images or know who or where he is please call us on 101, quoting IML 807399, or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. Alternatively, you can 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.”*

## **Police appeal for information following an arson in Runcorn**

Detectives investigating a motorbike set on fire in Runcorn are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

At around 12.25am on Monday 21 September police found a motorbike and a car ablaze on Parker Street. The fire had quickly spread to a house nearby causing damage. A number of people inside the property were

safely evacuated as a precaution and the fire was extinguished by firefighters. Enquiries in relation to the fire are ongoing and it is being treated as arson. Detectives are appealing to the public to come forward with information and if they saw anyone acting suspiciously in the area surrounding Parker Street and the Old Town prior to the fire.

DC Paul Cullen, of Runcorn CID said: *“The blaze caused significant damage to the motorbike and a house close by and we believe it was started deliberately. A number of people were evacuated as a precaution and the consequences could have been far worse if they had not become aware of the fire. We have been following a number of lines of enquiry and are determined to identify those responsible and ensure they face the full consequences of their actions. I would encourage anyone with information to please get in touch with us.”*

If you have any information please contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 810089, or via the website at <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> Information can also be provided anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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/>