

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## Cheshire News & Appeals



### Latest Cheshire News

#### Cheshire's Specials to make a difference this National Specials Weekend

Cheshire's Special Constabulary will be out making a valuable difference this weekend tackling local community issues across the county. The activity will take place as part of National Specials Weekend, a national celebration of all those individuals who dedicate their spare time to help police their local communities. National Specials Weekend, which starts Thursday 3 June to Sunday 6 June, forms part of the wider 'National Volunteers' Week' which runs from 1-7 June every year. Cheshire has a number of Special Constables who dedicate their free time to keeping the communities of Cheshire safe. The weekend will see specials out and about each day taking part in a variety of policing activities across the county with a focus on local community issues. Specials in Crewe attended The Lighthouse Centre to help provide support and a weekly hot meal to some of the community's most vulnerable people. In Runcorn and Macclesfield, two community events are being organised where the public can bring their dogs to get microchipped and have a health check by veterinary nurses by the local vets, who are volunteering their free time to support the event. The events are being supported by local charities and all they are asking for in return is for owners to donate a grocery item, which will be donated to local food banks. Specials across the county will also be carrying out a number of roads policing operations, with Northwich and Warrington coming together to target anyone committing one of the Fatal 5 offences (careless driving, speeding, not wearing a seatbelt, drink/drug driving and using a mobile phone while driving) along the A49, a key route for serious and fatal collisions. ACC, Jenny Sims, said: *"It is really important we recognise the value of the Special Constabulary and this weekend gives us the perfect opportunity to do that. It is vital we show the public the contribution each and every one of our Special Constables brings in helping to keep Cheshire safe. We have a fantastic Special Constabulary full of dedicated, determined and selfless individuals, and I want to express a huge thank you to all of our specials who give up their spare time to police their local communities."* Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, John Dwyer, said: *"I am absolutely delighted to be involved in this year's National Specials Weekend. It was fantastic to see first-hand the difference our special constables make to their communities when I took part in the session at The Lighthouse Centre in Crewe. I want to say a massive thank you for all the hard work and commitment that all of special officers, give to the Constabulary to help keep our communities safe – providing a truly valuable service to the public of Cheshire."*

ACC Sims, added: *"As a special officer you are in an unrivalled position to help the local community and make it a safer place to live. The work of the police is extremely varied and as such, your experiences as a special constable will reflect this. The role is challenging and rewarding, and I would encourage anyone who would like to help tackle local issues to seriously consider joining the policing family and becoming a special."*

To follow the work the Special Constabulary will be carrying out over National Specials Weekend, you can follow them on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#), read updates on our other policing accounts, or search for #NSW21 on social media. The Special Constabulary is a team of volunteer police officers. They have the same powers in law as every other police officer, they wear the same uniform, carry the same equipment and work alongside regular officers. To apply to become a special constable with Cheshire Police, or for more information [visit the careers page on our website](#).

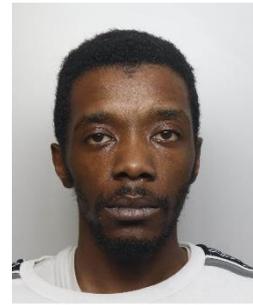
## Drug dealer caught hiding cocaine in his underwear jailed

A class A drug dealer has been jailed as a result of an officer deciding to stop and search a car in Alderley Edge. Reece Gayle, of Fairfields Road in Irlam, Greater Manchester, pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply class A drug cocaine. The 26-year-old also admitted charges of possession of criminal property (£1,575 in cash) and possession of class B drug cannabis. Gayle was sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 2 June. He was jailed for two years and eight months. Gayle was pulled over in the Heyes Lane area of Alderley Edge at around 10pm on Tuesday 13 April. An officer on patrol stopped and searched Gayle's silver BMW due to suspicions regarding his driving and his subsequent account of where he had been and where he was going. Remnants of cannabis were found in the car. A

decision was made to take Gayle to custody for a strip search. He was found to have eight snap bags of cocaine in his underwear. The street value of the drugs seized is estimated to be between £160 and £400. Prior to the search messages relating to drug dealing were found on Gayle's mobile phone. His home was also subsequently searched, with officers finding the £1,575 in cash there, as well as a small quantity of cannabis, three scales and large bundles of snap bags. Gayle refused to answer any questions in custody, but he pleaded guilty to the offences he was charged with when he appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Thursday 15 April. PC Sam Needham, who led the investigation as part of his role of policing the Alderley Edge area at Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: *"This case emphasises the importance of the police's power to stop and search people and vehicles they suspect to be involved in crime. It is an essential tool for tackling crime and making communities safer. As a result of our ability to stop and search Reece Gayle after he was witnessed driving suspiciously in Alderley Edge, a class A drug dealer and a quantity of cocaine have been removed from our streets. It is a class A drug for a reason. Cocaine causes untold damage to the lives of both those who use the drug and become dependent on it and the wider community who suffer from the resulting crime. I hope this case, and the fact that Gayle is now behind bars facing the consequences of his actions, deters others from both coming to Cheshire to commit crimes and getting involved in the supply of cocaine or any other class A drug. Such drugs have a hugely detrimental impact on communities."*

On top of his custodial sentence, Gayle was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £190. CI Dave Moores, also of Macclesfield LPU, said: *"Drug dealing will simply not be tolerated in Cheshire. While this investigation has now concluded, our fight against illegal drugs, and those who supply them, continues. Cheshire is, and will remain, a hostile environment for criminals. Intelligence supplied by members of the public is crucial to effective policing and I urge anyone with any information about suspected drug related activity in their community to get in touch. You will be listened to and we will investigate the matter."*

You can report suspected drug dealing to Cheshire Constabulary directly by calling 101 or giving the details [here](#). Alternatively, information can also be given anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.



## Man sentenced to 21 months after stealing cash from Runcorn bakery

A man who burgled a bakery shop in Runcorn has been sentenced to 21 months in prison. Michael Farrer, of South Terrace in Bury, entered Pound Bakery on Church Street through its roof and stole £1,300 in cash along with a safe worth £1,100. The 35-year-old had pulled the safe into the middle of the room and drilled a large hole into it. Farrer had also taken labels, and a bag that was full of till rolls, and used it to cover the smoke alarm. The burglary occurred sometime after 5pm on Saturday 1 February 2020. It was reported to police the following morning when an employee returned to work to find the shop had been broken into.



An investigation led to Farrer's DNA being found on the labels and the bag used on the smoke alarm, and he was arrested. Farrer received his sentence for burglary at Chester Crown Court on Friday 28 May 2021 after pleading guilty at an earlier hearing. He was also ordered to pay a £149 victim surcharge.

DS Rob McLoughlin, from Runcorn Local Policing Unit, said: *"Michael Farrer was determined to break into this bakery store and came equipped to steal money from inside the safe. After it was reported to police we conducted a thorough investigation and found fingerprints on numerous items he had touched when trying to conceal the smoke alarm. This led to Farrer being identified as the suspect and he was swiftly arrested, charged and has since admitted to his crime in court where he has been rightly punished."*

## **Man jailed for five years after threatening victim with knife for clothes he arranged to buy online**

A 20-year-old man has been jailed for five years after threatening another man with a knife for clothes he had arranged to buy online. Reiss Fletcher, of Bridge Street, Birkenhead was sentenced on Wednesday 2 June at Chester Crown Court after pleading guilty to robbery and threatening a person with a bladed article at an earlier hearing. The court heard how Fletcher had arranged to meet the victim in Chester after agreeing to purchase items of clothing on Facebook Marketplace on 18 January 2021. On Saturday 23 January, a similar arrangement was made again for a pair of jeans, shoes and a belt on Victoria Road, Chester. The victim waited in his car with his 12-year-old son and phoned Fletcher to let him know he had arrived. Fletcher appeared from a nearby building and got into the passenger seat of the vehicle. Once the victim had unwrapped a pair of shoes, Fletcher made demands for all the goods within the car. He then threatened to stab the victim if he didn't hand the clothes over. The victim clicked the car door open and told Fletcher to leave. He then fled to a nearby residential building, leaving behind his slipper. The victim then called police who swiftly arrived on scene and managed to detain Fletcher in a nearby flat. Following a search of the property officers found Phillip Plein trainers and a Louis Vuitton bag – which had been sold to Fletcher at an earlier date. They also found a knife similar to the blade described by the victim. Fletcher was questioned and subsequently charged with robbery and threatening a person with a bladed article. He was sentenced to five years imprisonment.



DC Scott Buckley said: *"This was a frightening incident not only for the victim but his young son who was in the car at the time of Fletcher's threats. Fletcher had no regard for the victim or his son, initially denying that he had threatened the pair during interview with officers. It is important for people to be cautious when buying or selling items online and arranging to meet up - think of the potential dangers and be alert. I would like to thank the officers who helped bring this case to court and the victim for assisting us in our investigation. I hope this sentence acts as a deterrent to anyone who feels that they can travel to Cheshire and commit crime."*

## **Man charged with class A drug dealing offence after car stopped and searched in Runcorn**

A 28-year-old man has been charged with three offences after a large quantity of what is believed to be class A drug cocaine was seized in Runcorn. Leon Thomas Rix, of Browning Drive, Great Sutton, Ellesmere Port, was arrested shortly after 12.30pm on Wednesday 2 June. He has subsequently been charged with possession with intent to supply cocaine, possession of an offensive weapon in a public place and escaping from lawful custody. The charges all relate to a car being stopped and searched on a slip road at Junction 12

of the M56 in Runcorn at around 12.30pm on Wednesday 2 June. Rix appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Thursday 3 June. He was remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 1 July.

## **Your constabulary needs you...**

Cheshire Constabulary is calling all communities to get on board our Community Cohesion Group. The Group looks at how policing powers are used and what you as a resident of Cheshire think about the way we use them, from stop and search and arrests to use of force and hate crime. Inspector Lindsay Dixon said: *"Lots of people have an opinion on policing and how we could be doing it better, but how would you like to really make a difference by sitting with us and reviewing our policing tactics to see if we could improve the way we police your communities? With it being volunteers' week, we thought this would be the ideal time to call on you to come and join us. The meetings give you an opportunity to look at how we use our powers and hold us to account so that you as a community feel we are fair and proportionate so that we can build a greater trust in the constabulary."* Those who attend the meetings will view incidents captured on police body worn camera footage and discuss freely any concerns you may have. Your insight is valuable in shaping our community policing. Find out more about what is involved and how you could make a difference in your community by joining our live web chat on Thursday 3 June, between 11.15am and 12.15pm. We'll be there to answer any questions you might have. Here's the link to the webchat. There's no need to register, just [click on the link](#) and ask away. If you can't make the online chat you can also find out more by going to the [Cheshire Police website](#).

## **Runcorn Police Station organises fun football tournament for 1,200 children**

KOPS 'n' Kids returns with a bang this summer – with what is believed to be the first community football tournament organised by Runcorn Police Station for 40 years. The free event at Runcorn Linnets' pitches in Stockham Lane, Murdishaw, will see around 1,200 children having football fun and getting to know local police officers and PCSOs. There will be 98 teams taking part, from Runcorn, Widnes, Ellesmere Port, Warrington and Liverpool. There will be boys, girls and mixed teams, with small-sided competitions run for every age group between under sevens and under 14s. CI Leeroy Moss, of Runcorn Local Policing Unit (LPU), said: *"KOPS 'n' Kids is a free sport-based activity scheme that our officers and PCSOs run with support from partner agencies to help children stay active and healthy and have fun. It also strengthens relationships and builds trust between young people and the police. The lockdowns caused by the Covid-19 pandemic temporarily prevented us from providing a range of fun activities for the children of Runcorn to enjoy during school holidays. Now that the restrictions have eased, KOPS 'n' Kids is coming back with a mammoth football tournament that will be held at Runcorn Linnets' football pitches over four days. I can't thank the team at Runcorn Linnets Junior Football Club enough for agreeing to host the event for free. The same goes for the Steve Morgan Foundation for paying all the other costs involved with hosting a football tournament, such as the referee fees, trophies for the winning teams and the medals that each participating player will receive, and for Halton Speak Out for securing the funding on our behalf. I would also like to thank Everton in the Community for agreeing to send some of their coaches to the tournament for the benefit of the children that will be there, and fellow partners Onward Homes for supporting the event too. Thanks to all of them, more than 1,000 children have a fun football tournament to look forward to this summer."* The event will be held on the Saturdays and Sundays of 3, 4, 10 and 11 July, from 9am to 3pm each day. PCSO Georgina Griffiths, who has helped to organise the event at Runcorn LPU, said: *"We believe it to be the first community football tournament that the police station has organised in 40 years. We have a photograph (below) of participants*

of a tournament the station ran in the summer of 1981, on the same pitches in Murdishaw. It includes comedy star John Bishop. We would like to invite everyone in the photograph to come to the tournament in July as special guests. It would be great if we could take a photograph of them so that we have then and now photos. If you or someone you know is in the photograph, please call me on 01606 365596 or email me at



[georgina.griffiths@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:georgina.griffiths@cheshire.pnn.police.uk).” The Steve Morgan Foundation support projects that help children and families, people with physical or learning disabilities, the elderly or those that are socially disadvantaged. Halton Speak Out supports people with learning disabilities and other vulnerable people by offering a wide range of services, including self-advocacy, person centred planning, employment opportunities, training, peer advocacy and dramatic and visual arts education and participation. Everton in the Community, the official charity of Everton Football Club, delivers a range of programmes to promote health, education, social inclusion and equality of opportunity using the power of sport. Onward Homes provides properties for rent and sale across the North West.

## Latest Cheshire Appeals

### Appeal for information after man absconds from HMP Thorn Cross

Police are appealing for information after a man absconded from a Warrington prison. Daniel Green was last seen at HMP Thorncross in Appleton on the morning of Friday 4 June. The 34-year-old has links to Cumbria area or he could be in the local area. If you see him, do not approach him, instead contact police on 999. Police are making a number of enquiries to trace him and are urging anyone with information on his whereabouts to contact police. Green is described as having a skinny build and is bald. He was wearing grey tracksuit bottoms, a grey top and a Nike grey t-shirt. Anyone with information, or thinks they may have seen Green, should contact police on 101 or 999 and quote IML 1004615. Information can also be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



### Police in Runcorn appeal for witnesses following shop burglary

Police in Runcorn are appealing for witnesses following a burglary at a shop in the town. Sometime between 1.41am and 1.51am on Sunday 30 May five men forced the shutters and front door of the Best One store in Beechwood Avenue and stole a quantity of cigarettes and cash. They then fled on motorbikes along Beechwood Avenue. DS Rob McLoughlin said: *“I’d appeal to anyone who witnessed the incident or has CCTV or dashcam footage which has captured the events to contact us. We’re making a number of enquires in the area and we are keen to speak to anyone who may have information that will help with our investigation.”* Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via our website quoting IML 1000173. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## **Appeal for information following armed robbery at Widnes convenience store**

Detectives are appealing for information from the public following an armed robbery in Widnes. At around 10pm on Wednesday 2 June, two men armed with a knives and a crowbar entered the Morrison's Local Store on Liverpool Road. Once inside, the offenders threatened staff before making off with a trolley loaded with cash, cigarettes and alcohol. After leaving the store the pair loaded the items into a small blue car and drove off in the direction of Hough Green station. The first man is described as being of a stocky build and at the time of the incident, was wearing all black clothing, with a white North Face logo, gardening gloves and Nike 110 trainers. The second man is described as being of a chubby build and around 5'11" tall. He was wearing grey and black clothing, black gloves, Nike 110 trainers and a white face mask. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone who thinks they may have seen the offenders, either before or after the robbery, to come forward. They also want to speak to anyone who believes they have CCTV or dashcam footage of the pair. DS Upile Mtitimila, from Widnes CID, said: *"This was a terrifying ordeal for those present at the time of the incident and I would like to reassure them, and the rest of the community, that we are doing everything we can to identify the people responsible. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and as part of our investigation I am appealing for anyone who was in the area and thinks they may have seen the offenders, either before the robbery or as the pair were fleeing the scene, to get in touch. The same goes for anyone who thinks they have may CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid the investigation. I would urge anyone with any information, no matter how small, to contact the team here at Widnes Police Station on 101."*

Anyone with information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 1003327 or report it via [the Cheshire Police website](#). Alternatively, information can be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously via 0800 555 111 or via [the Crimestoppers website](#).

## **Detectives appeal for information following serious assault in Widnes**

Detectives are appealing for information following a serious assault in Widnes. On Sunday 30 May just after 9pm a report was received that a 16-year-old boy had been stabbed on a field off Birchfield Road by unknown suspects. He was taken to hospital for treatment to serious but non-life-threatening injuries and has since been discharged. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are keen to hear from anyone who may have witnessed the incident to come forward. DS Henderson Pierre said: *"I would like to make it clear that this is believed to be an isolated incident and we are doing all we can to find those responsible. I'd also like to reassure the public that patrols have been stepped up in the area. We understand that there will have been a lot of people in the area around the time of the incident who may have seen the suspects or the victim in the lead up to the attack. If this is the case, we would urge you to contact police if you have not already. The same goes for anyone who may have footage either from a mobile phone, CCTV or dashcam – in the area around the time of the incident. Any information no matter how big or small could help us in tracking down the offenders and bring them to justice."*

Anyone with information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 1000883 or report it via [the Cheshire Police website](#). Alternatively, information can be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously via 0800 555 111 or via [the Crimestoppers website](#).

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

Detectives are appealing for information from the public after a man was assaulted outside a pub in Neston. Sometime between 7pm and 7.20pm on Thursday 27 May the 29-year-old was stood outside the Brown Horse Pub on the Cross when he was hit in the face by an unknown person. The victim sustained a serious

facial injury as a result of the incident, which required hospital treatment. He has since been discharged and is currently recovering at home. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are keen to hear from anyone with any information which may aid their investigation. DC Chris Tryer, of Ellesmere Port CID, said: *“The victim sustained a serious facial injury as a result of the attack and we are committed to doing all we can to trace the person responsible. As part of our enquiries we’re keen to hear from anyone who was at the pub around the time of the incident and witnessed anything that may be relevant to our investigation. Perhaps you witnessed the incident or saw the offender. I also want to hear from anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage which may help our investigation.”*

Anyone with any information or footage in relation to the incident is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 998275, or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> . Information can be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or report it via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>

## **Investigation launched following fatal collision in Cheshire village**

An investigation has been launched after a man died in a collision in Dunham-on-the-Hill, near Helsby. The 49-year-old was driving a red Vauxhall car that collided with a heavy goods vehicle on the A56 Chester Road at around 2.50pm on Saturday 29 May. Police, paramedics and firefighters were called to the scene. Sadly, the man from the Chester area was pronounced dead at the scene. His family have been informed and are being supported by specialist officers. The driver of the HGV, which was white and had a red trailer, is not believed to have been injured as a result of the collision. He was spoken to at the scene. 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 999726, or give the details [via our website](#).

## **Latest Cheshire Wanted**

### **Police appeal to trace wanted man from Liverpool**

Officers are appealing for help in tracing a wanted 21-year-old man from Liverpool. Jake Burrows, of Shaw Street, Liverpool is wanted in connection with a breaching a restraining order. He is white, 6’ 7” tall, of slim build with fair hair and blue eyes. Burrows is known to have links to the Chester and Liverpool areas. Anyone with information on Burrows whereabouts or Burrows’ himself is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 994281 or report it via the [Cheshire Police website](#). Alternatively, information can be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or report it via [the Crimestoppers 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/>