

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 13th June 2021

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Three charged following incident at industrial premises in Runcorn

Three people have been charged following an incident at an industrial premises in the Manor Park area of Runcorn. Michael Lynch-White, 30, of Yew Tree Road, Liverpool, Charlie Blue-Thomas, 26, of Sheepcote Lane, London and Elizabeth Collett Smedley Bell, 19, of Hewitt Avenue, London have all been charged with criminal damage. Lynch-White and Blue-Thomas have been remanded into custody. Collett Smedley Bell has been released on conditional bail. Lynch-White will appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Monday 14 June. Blue-Thomas and Collett Smedley Bell will appear at Warrington Magistrates on Monday 14 June.

Man found guilty of kidnap and rape of 15-year-old girl in Chester

A man has been found guilty of the kidnap and rape of a teenage girl in Chester. Joshua Hughes, of no fixed address, grabbed the 15-year-old near to Grosvenor Park and dragged her to a nearby secluded location where he raped her. Today, Thursday 10 June 2021, the 27-year-old was found guilty of kidnap and rape following a four-day trial at Chester Crown Court. He is due to be sentenced at the same court on Monday 5 July. The incident took place at around 8.20pm on Saturday 31 October 2020. The victim and her two friends were walking up the steps near to the suspension bridge towards the city centre when they were approached by Hughes.



Hughes put his arm around the victim's neck and pulled her away to a nearby location, where he committed the rape and then climbed over a wall and fled the scene.

The victim's friends ran for help, one of them called 999 and alerted other members of the public. Officers quickly arrived at the scene and located the victim, ensuring that she received the support and care needed. Detectives launched a complex investigation including forensics, extensive CCTV and numerous witness enquiries. From these enquiries Hughes was identified as a suspect and arrested on Wednesday 4 November 2020. DCI Justin Hancock from Cheshire Constabulary's Western Crime Unit, said: "*Joshua Hughes subjected a 15-year-old girl to a truly horrendous ordeal that night. He grabbed her while she was out with her friends in public and, despite her desperate pleas for him to let her go, he continued to drag her away where she feared for her life. The quick thinking of her friend to call 999 ensured a swift police response so that vital evidence was preserved. I would like to thank the victim for the strength and bravery she has shown throughout the investigation. I hope that the guilty verdict, and the sentence that will be handed down to Hughes, will provide the victim and her family with some comfort during an incredibly difficult time. I would also like to thank the members of public who assisted the investigation. DCI Hancock added: "These types of offences are extremely rare. Hughes is a dangerous and predatory criminal and I hope that this conviction gives the public some reassurance that justice has been served and that Chester remains a safe place to live and enjoy."*

Teenagers punished for kicking elderly man into the River Mersey

An 18-year-old man and a teenager have been punished after admitting to being involved in an elderly man being kicked into the River Mersey. Benjamin Bridgeman, of Quebec Road in Warrington and a 15-year-old boy – who cannot be named for legal reasons – pleaded guilty at Warrington Magistrates Court on Wednesday 19 May. Bridgeman appeared at Warrington Magistrates Court on Thursday 10 June and was sentenced to 10 weeks in prison. At Warrington Magistrates Court on Thursday 3 June the 15-year-old was given a 12-month youth referral order after admitting a joint enterprise assault. The 15-year-old filmed Bridgeman running towards the 74-year-old man and kicking him into the water. He then posted it on the social media app Snapchat and they both ran away laughing. The incident took place at 2.30pm on Sunday 25 April on Wharf Street near Riverside Retail Park. Two 14-year-old girls saw the man face down in the water and immediately pulled him to safety. He had suffered a cut to his nose after banging his head when he fell into the water. The gentleman walked home freezing cold and wet and informed his family of the incident who then reported it to police. An investigation began and an appeal to the public for information in identifying those responsible was issued. It attracted media attention both locally and nationally and led to the two teenagers both handing themselves into police. Bridgeman presented himself at Warrington police station on Wednesday 28 April and was interviewed by officers. He told them he ‘deeply regrets’ his actions and it was an ‘incredibly stupid and reckless’ thing to do. The following day the other boy contacted police and he was arrested at his home address. It later transpired the victim keys and a silver dollar pendant had fallen into the water when he was pushed. Members of the community came together to successfully recover the items from the water and returned them to him. Inspector Daniel Haddock, from Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: *“This was a disgraceful act which not only shocked the local community but the nation. What the pair saw as funny could have cost this man his life. They have also taken away what was once a favourite and enjoyable place for him to go fishing. It is pure luck that two teenage girls were walking past at the time and saw him in the water. Without a second thought they came to his aid and pulled him to safety. It is their actions that restore our faith in humanity.*

At the time our appeal for information generated an overwhelming amount of support from the public which we are grateful for. It meant they had no choice but to hand themselves into the police and admit to what they had done. I know how much of an impact this has had on the gentleman. I only hope the support from the community, and knowing those responsible have been punished for what they did, helps him to feel comfortable to one day return to his favourite place.”

Three men jailed for spate of rural burglaries across West Cheshire and North Wales

A gang of three who targeted properties in the rural areas of Cheshire and North Wales are behind bars following an 18-month operation by the two police forces. Lukaz Lawin, 36 from Trevor Street, Wrexham, Patryk Korybolski, 27, from North Road, Wrexham and Patryk Knapik, 25, from Hermitage Drive, Wrexham pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary and money laundering at an earlier hearing. They appeared at Sheffield Crown Court on 9 June to be sentenced. Lawin was sentenced to five years eight months in prison. Korybolski was given a five year three month sentence and Knapik was sentenced to four years and four months. Their crime spree came to an end following an investigation by Cheshire Police and North Wales Police. The trio stole property with a combined value of £450,214.98 between 23 July 2018 and 2 July 2019 targeting high value items such as quad bikes, motorbikes and horse tack. In total there were 75 offences – 47 in North Wales and 28 in Cheshire. As the net closed in on the gang, officers raided addresses in North Wales and arrested Korybolski at his home address, Lawin and Knapik had fled back to Poland so were extradited back to the UK to face justice. The men were subsequently charged and sent to court. DSI

Simon Draco said: *"I want to thank the officers from Cheshire and North Wales for their dedication and commitment - this was a very complicated and painstaking investigation which took a great deal of skill and determination to bring to court enough evidence to cause the defendants to plead guilty before a trial. I understand the rural communities were rightly concerned about the series of burglaries and I hope now that justice has been done they see that we were tirelessly working behind the scenes to arrest and put the offenders before the courts. The financial impact of burglary can be significant, but it's the emotional effect of being burgled which often lasts much longer and should never be underestimated. As a force we understand this and we hope this conviction goes as a warning to criminals, that in policing there are no borders, we work together to get criminals off the streets and will not stop sharing information and working together to keep our communities safe."* Sergeant Jenna Wyn Hughes of North Wales Police said: *"This was a complex and protracted investigation, which highlights the benefits of our close working relationship with colleagues from Cheshire. Borders will never act as a barrier to assist criminals in the execution of crimes like these. I welcome the sentences handed down, which serve as a clear warning that we will relentlessly pursue offenders, regardless of where they may flee to evade justice."*



Lukaz Lawin



Patryk Korybolski



Patryk Knapik

Man sentenced after dangerously driving at more than 150mph

A man who drove at more than 150mph on a motorway and went through a red light at over 100mph in a residential area in a bid to evade police has been sentenced. Nathan Batha, of Watkiss Drive, Rugeley, Staffordshire, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving in Cheshire, failing to stop for the police and driving without insurance. The charges relate to the 19-year-old's driving of a black Audi in the early hours of Sunday 13 December. An officer from Cheshire Constabulary's Roads and Crime Unit spotting the car travelling at excess speed through Junction 17 of the M6 northbound in Sandbach at around 3.50am. He pursued the vehicle, which reached speeds over 150mph before hitting several cones and entering a coned off area of the motorway. The officer was forced to stop pursuing the car for safety reasons, after witnessing it overtake and undertake other vehicles at excessive speed. A colleague in the Roads and Crime Unit driving an unmarked police car subsequently followed the Audi, as did a Merseyside Police officer. After it had exited the motorway at Junction 21, the officers witnessed the Audi travel along the A57 Manchester Road in Warrington at more than 105mph. It went through a red traffic light at over 100mph on the road with a 40mph speed limit. The officer who originally pursued the car was lying in wait on Manchester Road with a stinger, thanks to his communications with his colleagues. It was successfully deployed, bursting one of the Audi's tyres. Despite having a flat tyre, Batha continued to attempt to flee the officers. After going around a roundabout in the wrong direction at Junction 21 of the M6, the Audi he was driving was boxed in by the officers on the slip road leading to the northbound side of the motorway. Batha was arrested and interviewed in custody. He refused to answer any questions, but with officers having dashcam footage of his driving offences Batha was always going to be charged and he had little option other than to admit the charges. Batha was sentenced at Liverpool Crown Court on Wednesday 9 June and was jailed for 12 months. PC Chris Jones, who led the investigation into the driving offences at Cheshire Constabulary's Roads and Crime Unit, said: *"Thankfully no-one was injured as a result of Nathan Batha's dangerous driving on both the*

M6 and in a residential area of Warrington. The consequences of this incident could have been far worse. Speed limits are in place for a reason – travelling at an unsafe speed is one of the main causes of deaths on our roads. By speeding on the M6, and then driving at over 150mph on the motorway and over 105pm on a road with a 40mph limit in a bid to escape punishment for the manner of his driving, Batha put his life and the lives of other road users at risk. Thankfully, our pursuit of him, aided by a colleague at Merseyside Police, was brought to a safe conclusion and Batha is now facing the consequences of his actions. I hope that this case deters others from driving dangerously in Cheshire and failing to stop for the police.” Superintendent Jon Betts, head of Cheshire Constabulary’s Roads and Crime Unit, added: “We take dangerous driving offences very seriously at the force and anyone found travelling dangerously at excess speed will be dealt with robustly. Driving a motor vehicle is a privilege, not a right, and it comes with great responsibility to act within the rules laid down when you pass your test. When you deliberately ignore those rules, you put yourself and other people at considerable risk. Speeding reduces your time to react and deal with things like changes in driving conditions and actions taken by other road users. It also magnifies other driver errors, such as travelling too close to other vehicles or driving or riding when tired or distracted, multiplying the chances of causing an accident. It is no surprise then that speeding is one of the five main contributory factors that cause serious road traffic collisions. The others are driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, driving carelessly, not wearing a seat belt and driving while using a mobile phone. Together, these are known as the Fatal 5. We launched our Fatal 5 campaign at the beginning of 2019 to raise awareness of the importance of driving safely, adhering to speed limits and not committing any potentially deadly driving offences. The message for motorists is don’t put your life, and the lives of other road users and pedestrians, at risk – slow down, pay attention, wear your seat belt, put your phone down, don’t drink or drug drive and make sure that your vehicle is safe for the roads.”

Tackling domestic abuse during the European Championship

People affected by domestic abuse are being reminded that they are not alone during the upcoming UEFA European Championship. People affected by domestic abuse are being reminded that they are not alone during the upcoming UEFA European Championship. The rise in incidents of domestic abuse during and after football matches is well documented. In 2014 a study found that reported cases of intimate partner violence increased by 38 per cent when England lost and by 26 per cent when they won or drew in the World Cup. Cheshire Constabulary will be joining representatives from partner domestic abuse agencies across the county to give domestic abuse the red card. Chief Constable Mark Roberts, who is also the National Police Chiefs’ Council’s football policing lead, said: *“Tackling domestic abuse is a priority for Cheshire Constabulary. We know from previous tournaments that we have seen an increase in domestic abuse around certain fixtures, and this can be exacerbated by the addition of alcohol and gambling. Sadly, we are anticipating there will be a rise in domestic abuse reports during the tournament. We will use everything at our disposal to support victims and apprehend perpetrators. Domestic abuse is a crime and, while emotions do tend to run high, it is not an excuse to abuse partners.”*

The force will be hosting live web chats during the tournament to support anyone suffering from domestic abuse. Anyone with questions or concerns is able to submit questions anonymously about their situation. Family members or friends are also able to find out what they should do if they are concerned about loved ones. Representatives from police and partner agencies will be there to answer queries and guide people to the right support for them. The following web chats are scheduled, with more dates to be added as the tournament progresses, to ensure those who want to join should safely have the opportunity to do so:

- Wednesday 16 June, from 10am to 11am
- Friday 18 June, from 1pm to 2pm
- Tuesday 22 June, from 1pm to 2pm
- Friday 2 July, from 10am to 11am

- Wednesday 7 July, 12 noon to 1pm
- Monday 12 July, from 11am to 12 noon.

Questions can be submitted to digital.team@cheshire.pnn.police.uk and will be posted anonymously. The chats can be accessed from www.cheshire.police.uk on the day. DCI of Cheshire Constabulary, said: *“We are working with our partners within councils across the county. Our fantastic close working relationship with the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) means we can offer a comprehensive and supportive response to victims of domestic abuse. We are committed to prioritising domestic abuse and robustly targeting offenders whilst safeguarding victims and protecting children. We want the message to be clear, we will always take positive action against domestic abuse offenders, those who commit domestic abuse in Cheshire will be pursued and prosecution sought, the county is a hostile environment for all criminals and domestic abuse is of highest priority for us. Cheshire Constabulary has committed to training all front line officers as domestic abuse first responders. We have launched a campaign for Domestic Abuse Champions within Cheshire Constabulary who will assist colleagues in providing the best response possible to victims and families suffering from domestic abuse. We urge anyone suffering from domestic abuse or concerned for someone who might be a victim to contact us on 101, via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or on 999 in an emergency. Please be aware that under Clare’s Law, any member of the public has the right to ask us if their partner may pose a risk to them, or to make an enquiry into the partner of a close friend or family member on their behalf. To make a Clare’s Law request please visit www.cheshire.police.uk, call 101 (always call 999 in an emergency) or attend any police station.”*

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, John Dwyer, added: *“I wholeheartedly support the approach the Chief Constable and his officers are taking to tackle domestic abuse in Cheshire, and particularly during the European Championship. Cheshire police officers and staff are fully trained to ensure they understand how they can help domestic abuse victims, along with our partner agencies across the county. I want the public to have the confidence to know that the police will support them, and that the correct processes are in place to provide that support.”* The force works closely with local authority domestic abuse services across the county. Each authority will be communicating specific pathways for victims and perpetrators during the tournament. The Open the Door website (www.openthedoorcheshire.org.uk) is there to provide support to residents across Cheshire 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Open the Door campaign encourages people experiencing abuse, people with abusive behaviours, friends and family to access information about how to spot the signs of domestic abuse and how to get early help where they live. Information is also available for local employers to help them recognise if an employee is in an abusive situation at home. Many of the initial signs and symptoms of abuse can be tricky to spot from the outside, so people are asked to trust their instincts. Some of the signs to look out for are:

- Undermining you, so you lose confidence
- Isolating you from your friends and family
- Making all the decisions in your life, including what you wear, who you talk to and where you go and when
- Making you do things that you don’t want to do
- Controlling your money
- Following you when you go out
- Needing to know where you are at all times.

Councillor Robert Cernik, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, said: *“We know that the past 18 months has been an extremely difficult time for anyone who has been suffering from domestic abuse. The upcoming European Championship will also be a worrying time for many of these people. Domestic abuse*

doesn't have to stay behind closed doors. Cheshire's Open the Door is there to help people get the help they need and to bring this hidden crime out into the open. Please don't suffer in silence, support is available." If you, or someone you know is in a relationship that does not quite feel right, speak to someone about it. You can get help and advice and contact information for support services for your area of Cheshire at openthedoorcheshire.org.uk. Always call 999 in an emergency.

Everybody needs good neighbours

With Neighbourhood Watch Week in full swing we thought it would be the ideal time to remind residents just how valuable the scheme is for you and your community. Cheshire was the birthplace of Neighbourhood Watch, and with this, the county has a long history of communities working together to support each other and prevent crime. It's never been more apparent than recent times as the pandemic restricted our life dramatically in a way we could never have imagined. Our communities stepped up to the challenge, supporting vulnerable neighbours and keeping each other going in innovative and entertaining ways. Superintendent Peter Crowcroft said: *"As we make tentative steps back to normality we want to harness this goodwill and caring nature to help us prevent crime on our streets and estates. You showed you were true heroes when times were, and still are, unprecedented, and we want you to keep that community spirit alive and kicking by making your street or estate a neighbourhood watch area."* As restrictions ease, unfortunately we will see crime increase again and we want to tackle this head on with your help. Help us pass on vital crime prevention tips to your neighbours, keep your eyes and ears open and report suspicious activity, and help us make your neighbourhood too hot to handle for criminals. There are plenty of initiatives to get your teeth into which will help you and your community. Simply head to www.ourwatch.org.uk/nwwweek to find out more – there's also still time to get involved in some of the national virtual sessions this week. If you want to enquire about setting up or becoming involved in Neighbourhood Watch in your area have a look at www.cheshirenw.org or email cheshirenw@outlook.com.

Macclesfield man jailed for drug dealing in the town

A 24-year-old man from Macclesfield has been sentenced to three years in prison after admitting drug dealing in the town. He was sentenced at Stockport Magistrates' Court on Friday 4 June after admitting being concerned in the supply of class A and B drugs - cocaine and cannabis. In the early hours of Tuesday 18 February 2020 Nathan Clark, of Sanders Square, Macclesfield, was stop searched on Coppice Rise after being seen acting suspiciously, and was found to be in possession of cocaine. Officers then conducted warrant at a property in Sanders Square, Macclesfield, in the early hours of Tuesday 18 February 2020 and seized approximately £10,000 worth of illegal drugs. PC Sam Needham said: *"I hope this goes as a strong message to those who deal drugs in Macclesfield that we are out there patrolling the streets and targeting dealers with the help of eagle-eyed members of the public who are reporting suspicious activity to us. We will continue to remove illegal drugs from our streets to keep our communities safe from harm and will continue to act on information we receive. I would urge anyone who sees illegal drug dealing or has information to contact police on 101 or via our [website](#). Together we can keep our streets free of illegal drugs and those who sell them."*



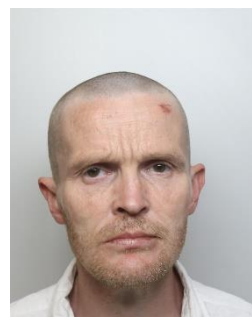
Cheshire's Special Constabulary volunteer 884 hours over National Specials

Weekend

Cheshire's Special Constabulary volunteered a staggering 884 hours over National Specials Weekend to help make Cheshire even safer. National Specials Weekend is a national celebration of all those individuals who dedicate their spare time to help police their local communities and took place from Thursday 3 June to Sunday 6 June. Specials in Crewe attended The Lighthouse Centre and helped to provide support and 48 hot meals to some of the community's most vulnerable people. Drugs warrants were executed in Northwich and Warrington, with the warrant in Warrington leading to a discovery of more than 330 cannabis plants. The warrants were arranged, planned and executed by the Special Constabulary. In Runcorn and Macclesfield, two community events were held where the public could bring their dogs to get microchipped and have a health check by veterinary nurses by the local vets, who were also their volunteering their free time to support the event. The events saw 10 dogs chipped and 40 dogs receive welfare checks and was supported by local charities. Across the county a number of special constables carried out 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 – multiple Traffic Offence Reports were given out across the weekend. As well as 14 new special constables joining the policing family to kick start the celebratory weekend. ACC, Jenny Sims, said: *"The commitment from the whole of the Special Constabulary over the weekend has been phenomenal and the community engagement is just wonderful to see. 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 gave up their spare time to police their local communities this weekend – really working hard to highlight the value special constables give to policing in Cheshire."* Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, John Dwyer, said: *"I was absolutely delighted to get 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. The amount of hours the specials volunteered over the weekend is incredible and 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."*

Crewe man jailed for shoplifting and breaching Criminal Behaviour Order

A Crewe man has been jailed after admitting shoplifting and breaching his Criminal Behaviour Order. Nigel Dunn, 42, of Fanshawe Walk, Crewe, appeared at West Cheshire Magistrates Court on 4 June charged with five counts of shoplifting which occurred between 17 May and 3 June. He was sentenced to 44 weeks in prison, eight of which were from a suspended sentence given at a hearing in May for breaching his Criminal Behaviour Order by shoplifting. Dunn was arrested by officers at 11.42am on 3 June in Crewe town centre as he left Boots with a quantity of stolen items. Sergeant Dan Welch said: *"Dunn is a prolific shoplifter who gave scant regard for his CBO and was in clear breach by being in Market Centre on 3 June. He targeted a number of shops stealing around £651.99 worth of goods, despite being under the threat of going to jail if he breached his CBO and his suspended sentence for previous shoplifting offences. The impact of shoplifting on businesses should not be underestimated and we recognise we need to tackle it head on by being present in our communities ready to act. Working with our local businesses we were able to secure a conviction against Dunn and will continue to work closely with our business community to try and prevent crime and support*



staff with what can be quite distressing situations, especially if they deal with the shoplifter when a crime is in progress.”

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for information following suspicious behaviour in Northwich

Police are appealing for information in relation to a man acting suspiciously in Northwich. At approximately 1.15pm on Sunday 6 June a man driving a sports car slowed down on Manchester Road to ask an 18-year-old woman if she wanted a lift. She ignored him and he turned the car around onto the other side of the road and repeatedly asked her to get into his car. She continued to ignore him and phoned a friend as she walked to a place of safety, and he drove away. She then reported the behaviour to police. The man is described as black, with black dread locks and wearing a big black coat. He was driving a matt black coloured car which had lots of smoke coming out of the exhaust. Officers are conducting a number of lines of enquiry as part of their investigation and are asking the public to come forward with information.

Sergeant Andrew Cooper, of Northwich Local Policing Unit, said: *“Since the incident was reported we have undertaken numerous enquiries including reviewing CCTV footage to help identify the vehicle and the driver. As part of our investigation we are keen to hear from anyone who may have been in the area at the time and saw the car, or perhaps they know the identity of the driver, to get in touch. The young lady did the right thing by ignoring this man and reporting it to police as soon as possible. This appears at this time to be an isolated incident.”* If you have information please contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 and quote IML 1006450. Information can also be provided anonymously by calling 0800 555 111.

Detectives appeal for information after man is robbed in Orford Park

Detectives are appealing for information after a man was robbed at a park in Warrington. A 56-year-old man was in Orford Park near to the duck pond at Orford Green when he was approached by two males. The pair stole a quantity of cash in his possession before fleeing the area on foot in the direction of Orford Green onto Birtles Road. The robbery is believed to have occurred between 4pm and 4.30pm on Friday 4 June.

Police have been conducting a number of enquiries in the local area and are appealing for witnesses.

DC Joe Davies, from Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: *“The victim was in Orford Park with his mobility scooter when the money was taken from him by two suspects who were dressed in dark clothing. We have been checking CCTV and patrolling the area as part of our enquiries and are also appealing to the public for information. I am encouraging anyone who was in the area at the time and may have seen the victim, or two males running away from the park after the incident took place, to get in touch. If you have any other information which could assist the investigation please call us on 101 and quote IML 1004851.”*

Information can also be passed on anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.