

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 22nd August 2021

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Man jailed for sexually abusing young boy in Knutsford

A man who sexually assaulted a young boy in a toilet block in Knutsford has been jailed. Martin Mee pleaded guilty to two counts of gross indecency of a boy under 14 and three counts of indecently assaulting a boy under 14. The 56-year-old, of Hatchmere Close, Timperley, was jailed for eight years for the offences during a hearing at Chester Crown Court on Monday 16 August. He was also handed an indefinite Sexual Harm Prevention Order and an indefinite restraining order banning him from contacting the victim in any way. Mee's offending took place in the late 1990s, but the incidents only came to light in October 2020 when the victim reported it to the police. The majority of the offences took place in a toilet block on Northwich Road in Knutsford, which Mee would attend on a regular basis to engage in sexual activity with a boy. The boy was just eight-years-old when the offences first took place. On some occasions he would also drive the boy to other secluded areas of Knutsford. Following the sentencing DC Lee Ferris, from Macclesfield CID, said: *"I would like to recognise the bravery that the victim has shown – firstly in coming forward to report what happened to him and also throughout this investigation. This was a complex and emotional case. What Mee did to the victim was truly horrific and will have an impact on him for the rest of his life. As a result of his courage, a dangerous man is now behind bars and facing the consequences of his actions. The sentence handed to Mee reflects the severity of his crimes and his conviction sends a clear message that Cheshire Constabulary takes all reports of sexual offences seriously – no matter how long ago they took place."* Anyone who is a victim of a sexual offence can call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or report it via our website.

Man charged with posting racist social media message

A man who was arrested in connection with a racist social media message posted following the Euro 2020 final has been charged. Scott McCluskey, aged 43, of Blyth Course in Runcorn, has been ordered to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court at 12pm on Wednesday 8 September. He has been charged with sending an offensive/ abusive message by a public communication network. The charge relates to a message which was posted on Facebook on Monday 12 July – the day after England lost to Italy in the Euro 2020 final at Wembley.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Police renew appeal for information following death of man in Runcorn

Police investigating the death of a man who fell from a bridge in Runcorn have renewed their appeal for witnesses and video footage. At around 4.55am on Sunday 15 August 2021 police were called to reports of an incident on the Queensway flyover. Officers attended the scene and found at that 18-year-old Ryan Swales, from Widnes, had fallen from the bridge on to Station Road. Ryan was treated at the scene by

paramedics before being transported to Aintree Hospital. Sadly, despite the best efforts of all those involved, Ryan died a short time later. DS Lianne Macfarlane, from Runcorn CID, said: *“Enquiries into the incident are ongoing and we are keen to hear from anyone with any information, which could assist with our investigation. We’re particularly keen to hear from anyone who was driving on the Jubilee Bridge between 4.30am and 5am on Sunday 15 August and may have seen the man in the moments leading up to the incident. The same goes for anyone with any dashcam footage, which could help. In particular, I’d like to hear from the person who was parked in the Top Locks car park, on Waterloo Road, and helped direct the ambulance to the scene.”* At this stage, Ryan’s death is not believed to be suspicious and a case file will be prepared for the coroner. Anyone with any information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101, or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tua, quoting IML 1061703.

CCTV image released following theft of a phone box in Chelford

Police have released a CCTV image of a man they would like to speak to in relation to the theft of a red phone box in Chelford. Sometime between 2.30pm and 3pm on 13 July an old style red phone box was removed from a garden in Chelford Road. The box belongs to Chelford Parish Council and no one had given permission for it to be removed. A white Ford transit van was seen dropping off a skip and then and three men using a digger then removed the box and asked a member of public to guard the live electric cables which had been exposed while they contacted the energy network to make it safe. The men never returned. PC John Milman said: *“We’ve been making a number of enquiries in the area and are keen to speak to anyone who recognises the man in this image as he may be able to help us with our enquiries. I’d also appeal for the man to come forward to assist us with our investigation.”* Anyone with information should contact Cheshire police on 101 quoting IML 1036485. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Appeal for information after mountain bike stolen from teenagers in Widnes

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and video footage after a mountain bike was stolen from two teenagers in Widnes. At around 6.30pm on Tuesday 17 August two 14-year-old boys with a black and yellow mountain bike were stood by the duck pond on Pole Acre Drive, when they were approached two unknown men wearing balaclavas. The pair, who were riding a black Bultaco electric, threatened the victims and demanded that they handed over the mountain bike. They then fled the scene on the two bikes (the mountain cycle and the electric bike), riding in the direction of Prescott Road. Both of the offenders are described as being teenage boys, who were wearing dark clothing and black balaclavas.

DC Christopher Sheffield, of Widnes Local Policing Unit, said: *“The victims have understandably been left shaken as a result of the incident and I would reassure residents that we are committed to doing all that we can to identify those responsible. As part of our investigation we’re keen to hear from anyone who was in the area at the time of the incident and believes they may have witnessed anything suspicious, or seen the offenders fleeing the scene on Prescott Road. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage that may be relevant to our investigation. We would also like to hear from anyone who believes that they may have seen the bike since it was taken. The bike itself is a specialized black and yellow mountain bike which is easily identifiable.”* If you have any information, no matter how small, please call us on 101, quoting

IML 1063489 or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. Alternatively, information can be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111."

Detectives appeal for information following robbery in Chester

Detectives investigating a robbery in Chester are appealing for information from members of the public. A 22-year-old man, from Merseyside, was approached by five to seven people on The Groves in between The Rowing Club and the Boathouse. They asked him for a cigarette before punching him in the face and forcing him to hand over money from his wallet. The black and white Puma trainers he was wearing were also stolen. It occurred at some time between 7pm and 8pm on Saturday 24 July. The victim sustained a broken jaw and attended hospital for treatment. Enquiries have been ongoing and police are appealing for information, dash cam and CCTV footage to assist with their investigation. DC Beth Higginson, of Chester CID, said: *"The assault resulted in the victim having his jaw broken and in fear he felt he had no choice but to hand over his money and footwear. While we have been following lines of enquiry to identify the men involved in the attack I am encouraging members of the public to come forward with information. This also includes getting in touch if you have CCTV or dash cam footage between 7pm and 8pm in this area of The Groves. Any information could greatly assist the investigation."* If you have information please contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 quoting IML 1053792 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information after cannabis farm discovered in fire damaged Macclesfield warehouse

Detectives investigating a fire at an industrial warehouse in Macclesfield have discovered that the building was being used to house a professional cannabis farm. Shortly before 4am on Tuesday 17 August emergency services were called to reports of a fire at an industrial building on Calamine Street. Police and fire attended the scene and on arrival they found a large fire in a former kitchen warehouse. An investigation by firefighters has concluded that the fire was caused by an electrical fault involving the equipment being used as part of a cannabis farm. Enquiries in relation to who was responsible for the farm remain ongoing and officers are continuing to appeal for information which may aid their investigation. DS Robert McCubbin, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: *"This investigation is in its early stages and we are committed to doing all we can to establish who was running this factory. Due to the structural stability of the site we have been unable to access some parts of the building and we expect that officers will remain in attendance at the scene for several days. The warehouse itself is located at the junction of Calamine Street and Windmill Street and as part of our enquiries we are keen to hear from anyone in the area who believes they may have witnessed anything suspicious in recent weeks and months. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid our investigation."* Anyone with any information in relation to the incident is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101, quoting IML 1063059 or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. Alternatively, information can be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information and video footage following Wilmslow car theft

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following the theft of a car in Wilmslow. Sometime between 6.10pm and 6.40pm on Monday 9 August an unknown man stole a white Ford KA which was parked outside Hooper's department store on Aldeley Road. The man is believed to have travelled to the area on a red pushbike which was abandoned at the scene. The car was then seen being driven off in the direction of Manchester Road. Enquiries in relation to incident are ongoing and as part of their investigation officers are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident or anyone with any video footage which may aid the investigation. PC Mark Stringer, from Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: *"Alderley Road is a busy road and I believe that there may have been a number of people in the area at the time of the incident who may hold vital information. As part our ongoing enquiries I'm keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the theft or noticed anything suspicious in the area around the time of the incident. I would also like to hear from anyone who was driving through the area at the time and may have unwittingly recorded any dashcam footage which may aid our investigation."* Anyone with any information, no matter how small, is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tua, quoting IML 1057654. Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Eight people arrested following serious assault in Chester

Detectives investigating a serious assault in Chester have now arrested eight people in connection to the incident. At around 9.35pm on Wednesday 11 August police and paramedics were called to reports of an incident at the Leadworks Park, on Leadworks Lane. Officers attended the scene and found that a 38-year-old local man had been stabbed. The victim was taken to the Countess of Chester Hospital for treatment – he is currently recovering and is in a stable condition. As part of their investigation officers have arrested a total of eight people from Cheshire, Merseyside and Greater Manchester in relation to the incident. The seven men and one woman, who are aged between 17 and 30, were all arrested on suspicion of attempted murder. DCI Justin Hancock said: *"This investigation remains ongoing and we are committed to doing all we can to establish exactly what took place. At this stage we believe that this was a targeted incident. While we have already arrested eight people, which I hope provides reassurance to the local community, we are continuing to appeal for witnesses to come forward. I urge anyone with any information in relation to the incident, no matter how small, to get in touch."* Anyone with information or CCTV footage that may help the ongoing investigation should call Cheshire Police on 101, quoting IML1059188. Alternatively you can submit information online via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua>. Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for witnesses and CCTV footage following large fire in Macclesfield

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a large fire at an industrial warehouse in Macclesfield. Shortly before 4am on Tuesday 17 August emergency services were called to reports of a fire at an industrial building on Calamine Street. Police and fire attended the scene and on arrival they found a large fire in a former kitchen warehouse. A joint investigation into cause of the fire has now been launched and officers are keen to hear from anyone with any information which may aid their enquiries.

DS Robert McCubbin, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: *"This investigation is in its early stages and at the current time it's too soon to say what the exact cause was. The warehouse involved is located at the junction of Calamine Street and Windmill Street and as part of our enquiries we are keen to hear from anyone who was in the area who believes they may have witnessed anything suspicious. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid our investigation."* Anyone with any information in relation to the incident is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101, quoting IML 1063059 or give the details via

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> . Alternatively, information can be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information following armed robbery in Congleton

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and video footage following an armed robbery at a shop in Congleton. At around 4.45pm on Monday 16 August an unknown man armed with a knife entered the Holland and Barratt store on Congleton High Street. The man threatened staff and ordered them to open the safe before leaving the store on foot with a quantity of cash. The suspect was described as a man, with a local accent, around 5' 10" tall and of slim build. He was wearing a black puffer coat, black trousers, black trainers and a dark grey balaclava. DS Robert McCubbin, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: *"This incident has understandably left the store worker shaken and I would reassure residents that we are committed to doing all that we can to identify the person responsible. Congleton High Street is a busy road and as part of our investigation we're keen to hear from anyone who was in the area at the time of the incident and believes they may have witnessed the offender entering or fleeing the store. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage that may be relevant to our investigation."* If you have any information, no matter how small, please call us on 101, quoting IML 1062709 or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua>. Alternatively, information can be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Detectives investigate burglary involving £80,000 of equipment stolen in Birchwood

Detectives investigating £80,000 of equipment stolen during a burglary in Birchwood are appealing for information from members of the community. The burglary occurred at around 9.10pm on Sunday 15 August at a business premises on Birchwood Boulevard. Four men, all wearing balaclavas and black clothing, have entered through the back door, searched the building and taken numerous computers and phones. One of the men was wearing a high visible vest. Enquiries are ongoing to and police are appealing for information that could assist in identifying the offenders and any vehicles in the area. Police are also appealing for CCTV and dash cam footage in the vicinity. PC Neil Mooney, from Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: *"We have been following a number of lines of enquiry and keen to hear from anyone who was in the area at the time and saw a vehicle or people that appeared suspiciously out of place. If you have CCTV in this area or dash cam footage that could assist the investigation then please get in touch."* If you can assist police with their investigation please contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 quoting IML 1062210. Information can also be passed on anonymously by calling 0800 555 111.

Latest Cheshire Wanted

Appeal to trace man wanted in connection with a serious assault in Lymm

Police are asking the public to help trace a 37-year-old man who is wanted in connection with a serious assault in Lymm. Andrew Potter has links to Lymm, Warrington and Altrincham. Potter is white and 5' 10" tall. He has a stocky build, brown eyes and brown hair. Anyone who sees Potter or has information regarding his whereabouts, is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary immediately on 101, quoting IML 1041384. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Julia-Griffiths-(Chair),-Joan-Gibbison-(Treasurer),-Graham-Bushill-(Secretary),-Heather-Thompson,-Dave-Brown,-Clare-Harrison

Cheshire-Neighbourhood-Watch-Association-(CNWA)

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