

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 29th October 2021

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Nantwich beat team's popular fishing competition is reel success

On Thursday 26 August officers from the Nantwich beat team hosted the 11th annual “Phillip Martin memorial, Nantwich Police Youth fishing match” sponsored by the Nantwich Town Council. The event, which is organised and run by the Nantwich officers took place in a perfectly timed heatwave at the Border Fisheries on Waybutt Lane, Crewe. It attracted anglers of all abilities, both male and female, aged between 10 and 16 and is designed to offer an informal setting where positive relationships are built between young people and those who police their communities. As usual a Police siren signalled the start and end of fishing with lunch and refreshments provided to every angler throughout the day. This was made extra special with the donation of hot sausage rolls by the local Chatwins bakery. PC Matt Stonier said: *“As in previous years it was great to see so many anglers joined on their pegs by parents and grandparents allowing that real quality time that is so hard to find in the digital age we now live in. The match finished at 2pm and after an anxious wait the results were announced and presentations made. Well done to all who took part. Hopefully our winners will be back to defend their titles in 2022 and we can get even closer to our target of 50 anglers taking part.”*

This year’s winners were –

Overall match winner – Cameron Hart (total weight caught – 11lbs 3oz)

Heaviest fish – Jacob Evans (3lb 6oz)

Highest finishing female – Chloe McCallum

Angler of the day – Callum Hopkinson

Most improved – Dexter Hind

PC Stonier added: *“Each received a trophy provided by the Crown Hotel, Nantwich along with a selection of prizes donated by Daiwa fishing, Sticky Baits, Nantwich Town Council and a generous offer from a local member of the public Stuart Mitton. The continuation of the highest finishing female award is intended to try and increase female participation in the event; it was fantastic to see that almost 25% of this year’s anglers were girls.”*



Man charged in connection with serious sexual offences in Cheshire

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has authorised Cheshire Constabulary to charge a man in connection with allegations of sexual assault. Benjamin Mendy, aged 27, has been charged with four counts of rape and one count of sexual assault. The charges relate to three complainants over the age of 16 and are alleged to have taken place between October 2020 and August 2021. Mendy, of Withinlee Road, Prestbury, has been remanded in police custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Friday 27 August. Cheshire Constabulary and the Crown Prosecution Service would like to remind everyone that criminal proceedings against Mendy are live and that he has a right to a fair trial. It is extremely important that there should be no

reporting, commentary or sharing of information online which could in any way prejudice ongoing proceedings.

Former officer guilty of gross misconduct

A former Cheshire Constabulary officer has been found to have a case to answer for gross misconduct after misusing force systems. Andrew Birkett, a former police constable based in Crewe, was due to attend an accelerated misconduct hearing on Thursday 26 August in relation to a number of allegations against him. However, the 32-year-old, who originally joined the force in April 2016, resigned on Thursday 19 August and chose not to participate in the misconduct hearing. Despite his resignation, the hearing went ahead and Mr Birkett was found to have breached the standards of professional behaviour regarding authority, respect and courtesy. The outcome means that he has now been added to the College of Policing Barred List, meaning he will be prevented from working in law enforcement in the future. The misconduct panel stated that had Mr Birkett still been a serving police officer he would have been dismissed without notice. The allegations against him came to light in February 2021 after officers working with his former partner, also a serving Cheshire officer, raised concerns about his behaviour towards her. An investigation was launched by the force's Professional Standards Department and Mr Birkett was placed on restricted duties. During the investigation it was established that he had abused his position as a police officer by misusing police systems in order to monitor the activity and movements of his partner. On many occasions he would log on to the systems while off duty in order to keep track of what she was doing. Following the hearing, Chief Constable Mark Roberts said: *"As Chief Constable for Cheshire I want to send out a clear message that I expect the absolute highest standards of personal and professional behaviour and integrity from all my officers and staff. This is essential so that the people of Cheshire have both trust and confidence in the service we deliver. Unfortunately, in this case Mr Birkett's behaviour fell well below the level expected of a serving officer and he grossly undermined the privileged position that his role as a member of Cheshire Constabulary demands and expects."* CI Chris Warren, Head of the Professional Standards Department, said: *"As a serving officer Mr Birkett held a position of trust and he swore an oath in which he promised to abide by the law and the clear guidelines about the standards expected from him, including his responsibilities in relation to accessing and using force systems. Birkett was well aware of these standards. Sadly, he chose to ignore them and blatantly misused police systems in order to monitor the whereabouts of his partner. His personal behaviour was totally inappropriate for that of a serving police officer. While he resigned before the misconduct hearing took place that does not in any way excuse his behaviour. Nor does it reduce the impact that his behaviour has had on his former partner and her colleagues. I hope that the outcome of the hearing reassures the public that we take any concerns regarding the behaviour of officers extremely seriously and demonstrates that police officers are not above the law."* Anyone who wishes to make a complaint, or compliment, about the service that they have received from Cheshire Constabulary can contact the Professional Standards Department on 101, or by visiting www.cheshire.police.uk/fo/feedback/tc/thanks-and-complaints/ .

Man charged following Capesthorne Road collision

A man who was arrested following a collision in Warrington has now been charged. Ryan Brennan was arrested on Friday 20 August following a collision on Capesthorne Road. The 39-year-old has now been charged with:

- Two counts of dangerous driving
- Threat to kill
- Two counts of assault by beating
- Two counts of attempted robbery

- Affray
- Robbery
- Possession of a knife in a public place
- Possession of a offensive weapon in a public place
- Assault of an emergency services worker
- Driving without insurance
- Failing to stop following a collision
- Failing to report a collision
- Driving without a licence

Brennan, of Waterside, Appleton, has been remanded in police custody and is due to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 24 August.

Seatbelt stop check results in three year prison sentence

A man who was stopped by police officers in Warrington for not wearing a seatbelt has been jailed for more than three years. Officers spotted Michael Sherwood driving without a seatbelt on Hilden roundabout at around 9.30am on Saturday 24 July. After stopping his car on Lysander Drive, Sherwood admitted that he was in possession of a small amount of cannabis. However, when searching his car officers discovered more than £20,000 worth of cash and further cannabis along with a number of mobile phones. Sherwood was arrested at the scene and three further searches were carried out at addresses linked to him, resulting in the recovery a large quantity of packed cannabis, another £20,000 in cash and drug paraphernalia. Specialist officers determined that the cannabis seized had a street value of between £166,500 and £194,250. Sherwood was subsequently charged with possession with intent to supply class B drugs and money laundering. The 50-year-old, of Vulcan Close, Warrington, pleaded guilty to both offences. He appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Monday 23 August where he was sentenced to three years and four months in prison. Following the sentencing DC Mike McDermott, from Warrington's Beat Team, said: *"This is great work by two of our officers and truly shows the value of police stop checks. "What started as a basic seat belt check resulted in the seizure of more than £166,000 worth of cannabis and £41,150 in cash. On top of this, Sherwood is now behind bars for more than three years. During our investigation it was clear that Sherwood has played a leading role in the supply of illegal drugs in the Warrington area, selling cannabis on a commercial scale. While this investigation has been resolved our fight against illegal drugs and those who supply them continues. Intelligence supplied by members of the public is crucial to this fight 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 [online](#) . Following the sentencing a POCA hearing has also been scheduled for Friday 12 November where the court will decide what will happen to the cash seized by officers during the investigation.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for information on the 30th anniversary of the death of a woman from Widnes

Detectives have renewed their appeal for information 30 years on since the death of a Widnes woman. Mother-of-two Veronica Anderson, known as Vera, left her home in Widnes at 10.10pm on Saturday 24 August 1991 after receiving a phone call. Just hours later (shortly after 3am on Sunday 25th August 1991) the 42-year-old was found dead in her car off Tannery Lane in Penketh, Warrington. A murder investigation was subsequently launched by Cheshire Constabulary. However, despite extensive and exhaustive enquiries over the years, no-one has ever been convicted in connection with her death. On the 30th anniversary of



Vera's death, officers are appealing for anyone who has any information about the case, to come forward. DI Adam Waller said: *"Vera's family have been left devastated by her death and have had to live with what happened since 1991. The family have never received closure from Vera's death and I would appeal to anyone with information to come forward. Someone must know what happened that day and I would appeal to them to get in touch. We appreciate that 30 years is a long time ago but the smallest detail may help us in bringing justice for Vera and her family."* Anyone with any information is urged to contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 quoting occurrence number 0709373610 or report it via the [Cheshire Police website](#). If you do not want to speak to the police then information can also be passed on anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111 or online via the [Crimestoppers website](#).

Police appeal for witnesses to Runcorn canalside robbery

Police are appealing for witnesses following a robbery in Runcorn. At around 8.30pm on Friday 20 August a man in his 40s had accessed the Bridgewater Canal towpath via steps leading from Seaford Close. He noticed a man standing nearby and the next he remembers he has fallen to the ground with injuries to his neck which had been caused by his silver necklace being ripped from his neck. The suspect was described as 5ft 6 to 5ft 8, aged early 30's, with a thin build, greyish skin and a bald head. He was wearing a blue and grey waterproof jacket and blue or black jeans. DS Helen Newman said: *"Obviously this left the victim who was treated by paramedics, shocked and in pain. I'd urge anyone who was by the canal near to Seaford Close/Wolverton Drive in the Windmill Hill area at approximately 8.30pm to contact us if you saw any altercations or anything suspicious. If you have CCTV that covers the canal path at this location please also get in touch so that we can progress with our enquiries."* Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the website quoting IML 1065796. Information can also be reported anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Appeal to identify four men following disorder at Warrington pub

Officers investigating disorder at pub in Warrington following the Euro 2020 final have released CCTV images of a number of men they are looking to speak to. At around 11pm on Sunday 11 July police became aware of a dispute involving a number of people incident at the Hop Pole, on Horsemarket Street, Warrington. Officers attended the scene and found that one person had sustained minor injuries. Enquiries in relation to the incident have been ongoing and officers have already spoken to a number of witnesses. In addition a 23-

year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of violent disorder and two other men, age 24 and 54, have been interviewed under police caution. All three have been released pending further enquiries. Now as part of ongoing enquiries officers have released CCTV images of four men who may be able to assist with the investigation. Anyone who recognises any of the men, or anyone with any information in relation to the incident, is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tua quoting IML 1035047. Information can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Police in Runcorn release CCTV image after supermarket purse theft

Runcorn police have released a cctv image of a man they'd like to speak to in connection with the theft of a purse in a supermarket in the town. At around 12pm on Wednesday 30 June a woman in her 80s was shopping in Aldi in Southway, when a man stole her purse from her bag which was in her shopping trolley. PC James Sant said: "I'd urge anyone who recognises the man to contact us so that we can progress with our enquiries." Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the website quoting IML 1026638. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting 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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