

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 19th September 2021

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Northwich man jailed for 18 weeks following local crime spree

A Northwich man who committed a series of offences across the town has been jailed for 18 weeks. Benjamin Gibney appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Thursday 16 September where he pleaded guilty to theft of a vehicle, two counts of theft from a vehicle, fraud and driving while disqualified and without a licence. The 33-year-old, of Park Street, was also recalled to prison in relation to previous offences. Gibney's crime spree began in the early hours of Tuesday 14 September when he stole a silver Citroen C1 which was parked outside an address on Hemming Street. From there he went on to break into a car and a van on Solvay Road and stole a number of items including tools, a Mont Blanc watch and bank cards. Then, at 6.45am, Gibney visited RS Stores on Royal Street where he purchased a number of items using the bank cards he stole from the car on Solvay Road. The incidents were reported to police and Gibney was quickly identified and arrested after officers recognised him from the CCTV footage at RS Stores. PC Adam Cupples, from Northwich Local Policing Unit, said: *"I welcome the quick conclusion of this case and I hope it acts as a warning to others. In this case the evidence against Gibney was overwhelming. Not only did officers recognise him on the CCTV footage, but when we attended his address to arrest him he was actually wearing the Mont Blanc watch which he had stolen just hours before. In addition, we also found the key to the stolen car at his address, and when we later located the stolen vehicle in Castle, the remaining stolen items were found inside— all of which have now been reunited with their rightful owners."*

Runcorn man charged with burglary and shoplifting

Detectives from Runcorn have charged a man in connection with two burglaries in the town. Josh Dutton was arrested by officers investigating two break-ins at the Vape Hut on Church Street. The incidents occurred on Monday 23 August and Wednesday 8 September. Dutton, of Albert Road, Widnes, has since been charged with two counts of burglary. The 31-year-old has also been charged with one count of shoplifting in relation to an incident at JD Sports in Widnes on Wednesday 25 August. Dutton has been remanded in police custody and is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court today, Friday 17 September.

Residents encouraged to feedback on plans to redevelop Wilmslow Police Station

Cheshire Constabulary is asking for residents feedback on plans to redevelop Wilmslow Police Station. Currently the station, on Hawthorn Street, is largely unoccupied as it is too big for current and future operational use. A new proposal being put forward would see the current station redeveloped to create a new, fit for purpose zero carbon station at the site with a view to become fully operational in around Summer 2023. The new station will not only help save tens of thousands of pounds in both utilities and maintenance costs but will also allow the Constabulary to sell the remainder of the unused land and reinvest any money back into local policing to help make Cheshire a safer place to work and visit. Having looked at visiting patterns to the station over the last few years, there is generally less than 20 visitors per week and

not all of these visitors require police service. As such, looking to the future, the plans for Wilmslow Police Station do not include a helpdesk - but the services they provide will still be at Wilmslow via an exterior direct dial phone that connects directly to the police control room. For those wanting to speak to someone face-to-face, there are regular community surgeries at Wilmslow Library, Dean Row Centre, Handforth Youth Centre and Festival Hall in Alderley Edge. Local policing Superintendent Peter Crowcroft said: *"I would like to reassure the public that these proposals will not reduce the level of service or the current police presence in Wilmslow. We would welcome any feedback from the public on these proposals as it is important for us to hear what our communities want. The current proposals supports the force's commitment for an estate that is fit for the future based on operational needs and to have a police service that is truly connected with its local communities. The decision will retain a police station within the local community and achieve cost savings that can be re-invested into neighbourhood policing."* More people than ever are now choosing to contact the force by phone or via online services and the Constabulary are looking to prioritise resources in these key areas in order to meet the demand from the public. John Dwyer, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, said: *"The Constabulary and I share a long term commitment to a policing presence in Wilmslow and these proposals demonstrate our determination that residents get the very best from us. Wilmslow deserves a state of the art station that is fit for the force that serves you. We want to hear your feedback as it's vital that we remain engaged with our communities, so make sure you have your say."* Anyone can report a crime, incident or looking to seek advice from the police can do so by reporting online here, calling non-emergency service 101 or direct general enquiries through the Cheshire Police Facebook and Twitter accounts. In the case of an emergency or threat to life, always dial 999. To have your say on the proposals please visit our [website](#).

Seven men arrested following investigation into disorder at Macclesfield FC

Seven men have been arrested following an investigation into disorder at Macclesfield Football Club's NWCFL Premier Division fixture against Congleton Town. Officers were made aware of disorder at the Moss Rose football ground at around 4.50pm on Monday 30 August. Police swiftly attended the scene and a dispersal order was put in place in the area. A number of enquiries has led to seven people being arrested this morning (Friday 17 September) on suspicion of violent disorder. DI John O'Driscoll said: *"The arrests today are a culmination of hard work and dedication across a number of departments who have had to gather evidence and analyse hours of CCTV and mobile phone footage to find those responsible for the disorder. The investigation is very much continuing and as enquiries continue further arrests will follow. No-one should go to a football match and be subjected to violence – we are committed in doing everything possible to prevent this from happening."* Superintendent Peter Crowcroft said: *"While the majority of football fans who attended the match were well behaved and had an enjoyable time, unfortunately there were a small number who were intent on causing harm. This will not be tolerated in our town. Today's action should act as a warning to football fans looking to visit Macclesfield to cause trouble and shows that we will investigate any reports of crime made to us and take relevant action where possible."*

The list is as follows:

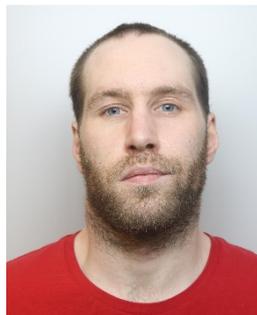
- A 31-year-old man from Macclesfield
- A 34-year-old man from Macclesfield
- A 54-year-old man from Macclesfield
- A 23-year-old man from Macclesfield
- A 26-year-old man from Macclesfield
- A 19-year-old man from Macclesfield
- A 51-year-old man from Buxton

Two men jailed following Runcorn Archery club burglary

Two men from Runcorn have been sentenced after admitting the burglary of an archery club in the town. Michael Wigley, 33, from Cooper Street, Runcorn admitted burglary at an earlier hearing and appeared at Chester Crown Court on 15 September to be sentenced to three years in prison. Jamie Bennett, 31, from The Knoll Runcorn also admitted burglary at an earlier hearing and was sentenced to three years in prison. This followed the sentencing of three teenagers in March this year for their involvement on the night. Connor Crawley, of Fallowfield, Runcorn, 19, was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment suspended for 18 months after pleading guilty to burglary. Robert Lingham, of Pitt Street, St Helens, 20, was sentenced to 15 months detention after pleading guilty to burglary. Daniel Henderson, of Wheatlands, Runcorn, 20, was sentenced to 27 months detention after pleading guilty to burglary and an affray unconnected to the incident. All were given a restraining order to prevent them approaching the Archery club. At 7pm on Monday 22 April 2019 (Easter Monday), the owner of The Archery Club based at the Woodlands Play centre, had just finished mowing the lawn and left the building locked and secured. At around 10pm that evening the premises was approached by eight people. They broke in and CCTV coverage from inside shows them searching the place, removing thousands of pounds of Archery equipment, attempting to gain entry to a safe and helping themselves to drinks from in the fridge. One of the offenders was also seen carrying a petrol can. The CCTV hard drive was removed by them and later found discarded in the grounds of the club along with expensive archery equipment and empty drinks bottles. The building was also set alight at some point causing extensive damage. DC Dawn Taylor said: *"The items stolen and damage to the building totalled £76,620. Due to the extent of the damage, the victim was no longer able to run the club from the premises - but thankfully he has since been able to fix the damage and is back up and running. The group denied any involvement in the burglary at first, but our evidence including DNA from drinks bottles discarded at the scene and CCTV put them in the Club that night. Due to the overwhelming evidence they pleaded guilty and are now facing the consequences of their reckless behaviour."*



Michael Wigley



Jamie Bennett

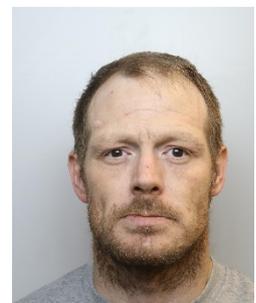
HGV driver jailed after killing Northenden couple

A man who killed a devoted husband and wife from Northenden has been jailed. Angela Wong, aged 56, died on Thursday 19 September 2019 after the car she was driving, a grey Toyota Aventis, was hit from behind by a HGV. Her husband, 62-year-old Richard Wong, who was a passenger in the vehicle, died three days later on Sunday 22 September at the Walton Centre in Liverpool. The driver of the HGV, Steven Bennett, appeared at Chester Crown Court today, Thursday 16 September, where he was sentenced to five years in prison. The 29-year-old, of Manor Crescent, Grimethorpe, Barnsley, had previously pleaded guilty to two counts of death by dangerous driving. He was also banned from driving for four years and ordered to undertake an extended retest. On the day of the collision, Thursday 19 September 2019, Richard and Angela

were returning from their caravan in Wales that they had just purchased. They had purchased this caravan to use in their retirement that had just begun. As they approached junction 9 of the M56 eastbound at around 5.15pm, they joined the rear of a queue of stationary traffic in lane one 1 just prior to the exit for the M6. While the couple waited patiently, their car was hit from behind by a 10 tonne yellow DAF engineering truck, driven by Bennett, which was travelling at approximately 50 miles per hour. The impact caused a seven vehicle pile-up and in addition to the Angela and Richard, four other people were also injured. An investigation into the collision was launched by officers from Cheshire Police's Serious and Complex Collision Investigation Unit. During their enquiries officers collated witness statements CCTV and dashcam. The witness statements and the dashcam showed a devastating collision with huge kinetic force. Downloads from Bennett's phone also showed that he was using his phone on a regular basis while he drove from the Liverpool area to the collision scene. At the point where the collision occurred there was obvious interaction by Bennett with his mobile phone. Following the sentencing PS Andrew Dennison, of Cheshire Police's Serious and Complex Collision Investigation Unit said: *"Richard and Angela were a devoted couple who had been married for over 37 years. They were loving parents and grandparents, and their deaths sent shockwaves throughout their local community. My thoughts are with their family and friends at this difficult time. While no sentence will ever bring Richard and Angela back, I hope that the conclusion of this case will provide them with some closure. I also hope that this case will act as a warning to others. Driving is a complex task, drivers should always give full attention to what they are doing as situations can change rapidly. This collision could have been easily been avoided, Bennett had a clear view of the traffic ahead of him at least 20 seconds before he hit the stationary traffic. But sadly he was grossly inattentive on the approach to this clear hazard. Once he took his eyes off the road his vehicle became a lethal weapon, and by the time he realised what was happening it was too late. This need to use his phone whilst driving has cost Steven Bennett his liberty and Angela and Richard their life."*

Man jailed for four years for drug offences in Northwich

A man has been jailed for four years after pleading guilty to drug dealing offences in Northwich. Ashley Evans, of Lilac Drive, Northwich, was sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 9 September after pleading guilty to possession with intent to supply crack cocaine and heroin. He was also fined £190. The court heard how the 38-year-old's DNA was found on 44 wraps of crack cocaine and heroin found during a search. On 30 January 2021, Evans was arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs. When he was arrested, a mobile phone was seized and further work was completed. The work shows that the phone had been used to facilitate the supply of the drugs. Sergeant David Christmas said: *"I welcome the sentence handed down by the courts and believe it sends a clear message that illegal drug activity has no place in Northwich. Evans was known locally as a prolific street dealer and I know that his activity brought misery to the town. This sentence shows we will not stop when targeting drugs in our communities and we will continue with our work in making the area a safer place to live and visit."* If you are experiencing suspected drug dealing in your local area, you can contact Cheshire Constabulary directly by calling 101 or giving the details online via [the Cheshire Police website](#).



House in Warrington ordered to close following incidents involving drugs and violence

A house that blighted a community in Warrington has been closed for three months. Officers from Warrington's problem solving team and beat management team applied for the closure order under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. This followed a number of reports of drug dealing and violence involving the address on Scott Street. There had been reports of drug users residing in the property and violent incidents inside and outside the house. Granted by Warrington Magistrates Court on Friday 10 September, the closure order makes it a crime for anyone other than the landlord to be at the house over the next three months.

Sergeant Alex Reeves, of the Warrington Problem Solving Team, said: *"The address was occupied by two local drug users in a residential area consisting mainly of families and elderly residents. The activity of people inside the and outside the address was causing concern to members of the community and the risk of harm it could pose to children living in the area. We then spoke to the local community and gathered as much evidence and information we could in order to successfully apply for the closure order and for it to be imposed. I know residents are grateful and pleased with the work officers have done to achieve this outcome and applauded them on the day. I want to make it clear that we will not allow the actions of a few individuals to cause misery, fear and harm to the community. This is an example of our continued commitment to tackle those who engage in drug and anti-social behaviour in order to make it a safer place for residents to live."* To report criminal or anti-social behaviour in your community please report online via the Cheshire Constabulary [website](#) or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Suspected criminals to be shown the yellow card

Cheshire police officers are now issuing yellow cards to anyone suspected of committing criminal activity in the county with a clear message attached - You are not welcome here! The new Op Yellow Card initiative allows officers who suspect someone is carrying out criminal activity to issue them with a warning card. This will happen across the county and cards can be handed out anywhere from the roads network to the streets. A crime will not have to be in progress for this action to be taken, but there will be police intelligence that the individual is involved in criminal behaviour. Similar to sports like football, if that person is stopped again in a similar area, and officers suspect they may be up to no good, then a second yellow card will be issued. Following this a range of options will be considered including dispersal notices and civil orders. A record will be kept of those people spoken to, and this information will be reviewed should any crimes subsequently come to light. Op Yellow card will apply to people from outside the county who are not believed to have a legitimate reason for being in the area. It will also be applied to people who live in Cheshire and are suspected to be carrying out criminal activity. CC Mark Roberts said: *"The message is clear, if you are coming into or travelling through Cheshire to commit a crime then we are watching you and you are not welcome. If we believe you are involved in criminality we will target you, and when we issue the Yellow Card we will explain to you why we are targeting you. This is not about stopping people indiscriminately and issuing them with a yellow card unnecessarily, it is about disrupting and deterring crime to help prevent Cheshire residents becoming a victim of crime."* As well as deterring criminals, the Constabulary hopes this course of action will help reassure the wider public that criminal behaviour will not be tolerated in Cheshire. CC Roberts added: *"We're making Cheshire a hostile place for criminals and the law-abiding citizens of Cheshire can rest assured that we will continue to target and catch those people who think they can come into our county and commit crime. Criminals from outside of the county might think that travelling into Cheshire gives them an advantage, whereas through a range of methods we actually identify them quickly. Through initiatives like this, we're determined to make life as difficult as possible for criminals, and you need to know that if you are*

issued with a yellow card we will be proactively targeting your criminal activity should you return to Cheshire.”

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for information and video footage following fatal collision in Widnes

Police are appeal for witnesses and video footage following a fatal collision in Widnes. At around 11.52pm on Saturday 18 September police were called to reports of a collision on the A5080 Cronton Road, near to the junction with College Fields. Officers attended the scene and found there had been a collision between a red Vauxhall Corsa and a pedestrian. The pedestrian, a 23-year-old local man, sustained serious injuries and was taken to Whiston Hospital. Sadly, despite the best efforts of all those involved, he passed away a short time later. His next of kin have been informed and they are being supported by specialist officers. The driver of the car was uninjured. Enquiries in relation to the collision are ongoing and no arrests have been made at this time. As part of their enquiries officers are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the collision, or anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid the investigation. Anyone with any information is asked to call Cheshire police on 101, or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tua, quoting IML 1088396.

Appeal for information following serious collision in Holmes Chapel

Officers are appealing for information following a serious collision in Holmes Chapel. At 5.29am on Tuesday 14 September, officers were called to Holmes Chapel Road following reports of a collision involving a silver Audi A3 and a red Peugeot 108. The driver of the Peugeot car, a 62-year-old woman, sustained serious injuries and remains in hospital. The occupants of the Audi fled the scene of the collision. A 30-year-old man was arrested in relation to the incident but has since been released under investigation. Officers are now urging any witnesses or anyone with information that could help with their investigation to come forward. Sergeant Jonathan Marsden said: *“This was a serious collision which has left the victim with potentially life-changing injuries. We have been completing a number of enquiries and know that the Audi was travelling from Holmes Chapel towards Congleton at the time of the collision. As part of our ongoing enquiries, we would like to hear from anyone who may know the identity of the occupants in the Audi. The same goes for anyone who may have dashcam or CCTV footage of the Audi prior to the collision as we believe this may be able to assist us with our investigation.”* Any information can be reported to Cheshire Police by calling 101 quoting IML 1084615 or report it via [the Cheshire Police website](#). Information can also be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or report it via [the Crimestoppers website](#).

Appeal for information following a collision in Winsford

Police are appealing for information from members of the public following a serious collision in Stanthorne. A yellow Mini Convertible collided with a tree at a farm on Middlewich Road. The collision took place at 12.45am on Thursday 16 September. Four people were inside the vehicle at the time of the collision. A 22-year-old man and a 21-year-old man were taken to Royal Stoke Hospital with serious injuries to their legs. A 21-year-old woman was taken to Leighton Hospital with serious injuries to her head and another 21-year-old women sustained minor injuries. An investigation is underway and officers are encouraging anyone who has information, CCTV or dash cam footage to get in touch. If you can assist officers with their investigation please contact the Cheshire Constabulary [website](#) quoting IML 1086012.

Detectives continue to appeal for information following the 30th anniversary of the death of a Widnes woman

Detectives have featured on BBC's Crimewatch Live to 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. Following on from 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 information that they believe will assist the investigation, is asked to report it through [the Public Portal](#). 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](#). If you missed the Crimewatch Live broadcast you can view this [here](#).



Officers investigating a serious fail to stop collision release images of two vehicles

Officers have released images of two vehicles they are looking to trace following a serious fail to stop collision in Widnes. At 12.27pm on Saturday 11 September a report was received of a collision involving a mobility scooter and a blue Piaggio Beverly moped on Lower House Lane, Widnes. The rider of the mobility scooter, an 88-year-old local man, remains in a stable condition in hospital with serious injuries. The moped, which officers have now identified as a Piaggio Beverly 350cc, failed to stop along with a fluorescent yellow quad bike. A 26-year-old man from Runcorn and a 20-year-old woman from Widnes were arrested on suspicion of failing to stop following a collision, causing serious injury by dangerous driving and drug driving. A 31-year-old man and a 27-year-old man, both from Widnes, were also arrested on suspicion of causing serious injury by dangerous driving and for failing to stop after a collision. All four have since been released under investigation. Now officers have released images of the vehicles they are looking to trace in relation to the collision. Sergeant Simon Degg said: *"The rider of the mobility scooter, who is a full-time carer for his elderly wife, remains in hospital in a serious condition having undergone major surgery. Sadly, this means that his wife has had to be placed in respite care due to the actions of those responsible. I am appealing to anyone who may know where the bikes are, or may know who is responsible, to please get in touch with us. The same goes to anyone who may have witnessed something or seen the vehicles around the time of the incident who has not yet contacted us to do so."* Anyone with information is asked to contact



Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 1082550 or report it via [the Cheshire Police website](#). Information can be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or report it via [the Crimestoppers website](#).

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

Cheshire-Neighbourhood-Watch-Association-(CNWA)

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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/>