

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 26th September 2021

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Do you want to help shape how the public can contact Cheshire Police?

If so, would you be interested in joining our Public Reference Group? The purpose of the Public Reference Group will be to help us shape our public contact offer for the future, specifically in the area of developing new contact channels and ensuring we are accessible to all. The frequency of the webinars may change over time but initially we envisage an initial webinar to be held in early/mid- October and then every two months. Webinars are likely to take place early evening and last about half an hour to an hour. The webinar will be held virtually to start and will be hosted by a member of the Public Contact Senior Leadership Team. We would like the Public Reference Group to be as diverse as possible and representative of the communities of Cheshire. Inclusion is the key, the greater diversity of the group, the better likelihood of producing an inclusive service. If this is something you are interested getting involved with, could you [please email our Engagement team](#) and include your name, email address, town of residence along with which community you are associated with by 1 October 2021 at the latest.

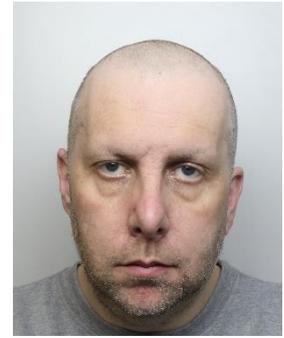
Former DJ jailed for historic sexual abuse

A man from Kingsley who sexually abused a young girl has been jailed thanks to the bravery and courage of his victim. David Baldwin was found guilty of five counts of indecent assault on a girl under the age of 14 following a three day trial at Chester Crown Court, which concluded on Wednesday 22 September. The 74-year-old, of Kingsley Green, Kingsley, was today, Thursday 23 September, sentenced to three years in prison. Baldwin, who formally worked as a DJ at the Britannia Bell Public House in Helsby, was also ordered to sign the sex offenders register indefinitely. During the trial the court heard that Baldwin systematically abused the victim in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Following the sentencing, DC Andrew Kevin, from Cheshire Constabulary's Sex Offender Management Unit, said: *"Sadly there are no winners in a case like this, however I hope this verdict goes some way to help the victim, and her family, start the healing process. I also want to personally thank the victim for speaking out despite fearing the consequences. What Baldwin did to her is truly horrifying, and something that no child should have to experience. Thankfully, as a result of the bravery shown by the victim, Baldwin's depraved acts have finally caught up with him. I urge anyone who has been the victim of a sexual assault – no matter how long ago the incident took place – to come forward and report it. We will continue to work with victims to ensure that they are listened to and are provided with the specialist support they need."*

If you have been a victim of sexual abuse, or know of someone who has, please contact Cheshire Police on 101, <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/> or Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111.

Man found guilty of murdering his neighbour in Congleton

A 47-year-old man has been found guilty of murdering his neighbour at her flat in Congleton. David Mottram was today, Thursday 23rd of September, found guilty of murder following an 8 day trial at Chester Crown Court. Mottram, of Nursery Lane, Congleton will be sentenced on Monday 27th of September. At 10.27pm on Tuesday 2 March 2021 Mottram called Crisis Line and told them that he had killed his neighbour, 45-year-old Samantha Heap. Officers attended the supported living complex in Nursery Lane and while in his flat, Mottram admitted that he had killed his neighbour. He was immediately cautioned and arrested on suspicion of murder. Mottram later told a psychiatrist that he said to Samantha that he had been locked out of his flat and asked to come in whilst he rang a family member to get a spare key. He then subjected her to a sustained and brutal assault. A Home Office Post Mortem revealed the cause of death as strangulation with many other serious injuries sustained by the victim. Detectives searching his flat found a blue holdall with a number of handwritten letters inside stating that he didn't want to live in the community and wanted to go to prison. Over the course of two days Mottram was interviewed by detectives but he answered no comment. Due to the overwhelming evidence he was charged with murder and remanded into custody. The jury heard that Mottram has Autism Spectrum Disorder and that as part of reaching their verdict they needed to decide whether his condition affected his rational judgement and provide him a defence of diminished responsibility. They concluded that it didn't and he was found guilty of murder unanimously. DI Julien Culham said: *"What Mottram did that evening was inconceivable and has left a family absolutely devastated. Despite admitting to officers at the time, and on his initial call to the crisis line, he decided to plead not guilty causing the family further distress of having to go through a trial. I hope that following today's verdict Samantha's family can now try to move on from this nightmare, knowing that Mottram is now facing a significant prison sentence."* Samantha's family said: *"Samantha was a warm lovely person who had no bad in her and did not deserve what happened to her. As a family we have suffered a great loss and we are struggling to come to terms with what happened. While it won't bring Samantha back to us, knowing he is in prison for what he did to Samantha and our family will, I hope, help us in some way as we try to come to terms with our devastating and cruel loss. We would like to take the opportunity to thank the police and CPS for their advice and support throughout this traumatic time."*



Cross border operation with Greater Manchester Police a success

Criminals using roads in and around Cheshire have been targeted during a day of action. Operation Crossbow, which took place on Wednesday 22 September, is part of ongoing efforts to disrupt criminal activity across the region and deny criminals the use of the roads. It involved more than 80 officers from Cheshire Constabulary and Greater Manchester Police, from roads policing, motorcycles, dogs, drones and local policing. Using a number of tools available to us, officers were able to police the border between the two counties. Following an afternoon briefing, vehicles made their way en-masse to key locations and worked into the early hours. Many took up strategic positions along the arterial routes while others roamed – ensuring that if there were any drivers or vehicles linked to criminal activity, they would be caught. The operation resulted in:

Cheshire officers:

- A total of 29 tickets were issued for not wearing a seatbelt, using a phone and excess speed.
- A total of five vehicles were seized for no insurance.
- A stolen vehicle was recovered.
- Two people were arrested on suspicion of drug driving and possession of drugs.

A joint effort, including a dog unit from Greater Manchester, resulted in the arrests of two men aged 31 following a fail to stop. The men, who remain in custody, were arrested on suspicion of failing to stop and other driving offences.

Greater Manchester Police officers:

- Six Traffic Offence Reports issued for use of phone, vehicle defects and window tints
- Four vehicles seized due to no insurance, driving license offences and MOT issues
- One summon to court for traffic related offences
- One vehicle seized for dangerous conditions
- Two stolen vehicles recovered
- Three arrested for drugs offences and possession of an offensive weapon - investigation remains ongoing



Inspector Steve Griffiths, who was overseeing the operation, said: *“Yesterday’s show of force was to highlight in no uncertain terms that we are out there 24/7 policing your roads and disrupting criminal activity. The day started with warrants in Knutsford and Northwich both with positive results and with arrests made. Throughout the operation we used a whole host of tactics to disrupt criminals working in our region which we use regularly as part of our everyday policing to make life difficult for those who are intent on committing crime. This was a great example of partnership working with another police force, and I’m sure this will have reassured the public that together we are intent on making Cheshire and Greater Manchester no go areas for criminals.”* Cheshire constabulary’s Chief Constable Mark Roberts said: *“We’re sending a strong message here that if you are travelling into or through Cheshire in order to commit a crime, then you are not welcome. Our officers are committed to preventing crime and will relentlessly target those suspected of wrongdoing - this day of action highlights this and our determination to make Cheshire a hostile place for criminals. Law-abiding citizens of Cheshire can rest assured that we will continue to target and catch those who commit crime.”* ACC Scott Green of Greater Manchester Police, added: *“Operation Crossbow is a great example of forces working together to target criminality, and sends a clear message that there is no geographical barrier when targeting criminals operating across our road network; criminals don’t stop when they reach a border, and neither does our response. The strong police presence creates a hostile environment for travelling criminals who are a threat to our local communities, and the results further emphasise our commitment to tackling crime. We know there is a strong link between illegal vehicles and other types of serious crime, and the work today will no doubt impacted criminal networks operating across borders. A range of intelligence was gathered throughout the operation, and I look forward to seeing the results continue to come in from this, and also how this will inform future operations, both within GMP and beyond.”* Cheshire Constabulary’s Police and Crime commissioner John Dwyer said: *“Operation Crossbow shows that we’re serious about making Cheshire a hostile environment for all criminals. They should be under no illusion that we will work with neighbouring forces wherever possible to put an end to their activities that bring misery to Cheshire’s communities. Preventing and tackling crime is a key priority in my Police and Crime Plan for Cheshire and operations like this contribute hugely towards that goal. My thanks go to all the officers and staff who made Operation Crossbow a success.”*

Police use powers to close down Chester drugs den

A property in Chester which was being used as a local drugs den has been closed down thanks to the work of local officers. On Wednesday 22 September officers from the local Beat Team attended Chester Magistrates' Court where they were granted a closure order for a flat on Vicarage Road, Hoole. The order, which was granted under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, was applied for by PC Matt Middleton and PCSO Keith Bartlett. The pair have been working with local residents and have gathered a catalogue of evidence in relation drug related activities outside and inside the address. As a result of their work the occupant of the premises, a 36-



year-old man, has been ordered to leave the address and find alternative accommodation. PC Matt Middleton said *"We are very pleased with the granting of this order and grateful for all the support and intelligence we've received from the local community. The action taken today not only reinforces the message that we are listening to what residents say, but also acts as a warning to others who believe it's acceptable to behave in such a way. I have no doubt that the closure order is the right result for the community and it will have a positive impact on the area, enabling local residents to start to return to normality."* The closure order makes it a crime for anyone other than the landlord to be at the house over the next three months. Regular checks of the flat will be conducted at the flat to ensure the closure order is not breached. If anyone is found to have breached the order they are liable to arrest and up to six months' prison, or a £5,000 fine, or both. Inspector Brian Green said *"This is great result for the local residents and demonstrates of how Cheshire police will react to intelligence received from the community. "We take all reports of drug dealing and criminality in our neighbourhoods very seriously and where appropriate we will take positive action to disrupt and prosecute those responsible. I want to thank the local residents for their support. Officers will continue to monitor the property over the coming months to ensure that there are no breaches of the order."* Anyone with any concerns is encouraged to contact Cheshire Police on 101 or www.cheshire.police.uk/tua. Alternatively information can be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Northwich woman jailed for drug dealing

A Northwich woman who plagued her local community has been jailed for drugs offences. Jade Grannell appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 13 September where she was jailed for 16 months. The 32-year-old had earlier pleaded guilty to two counts of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs (heroin and cocaine). Her sentencing comes just seven months after a closure order was granted for her former home Binney Road, Northwich, which had been plagued with anti-social behaviour and drugs related offences. Grannell, now of Old Orchard Place, Crewe, was arrested by officers on Wednesday 25 November 2020 when she was stopped by officers on Royle Street and found in possession class A drugs. Following her arrest, a search was conducted at her former home on Binney Road where officers discovered further class A drugs. During questioning Grannell admitted to officers that she had been dealing drugs on behalf of a county lines drugs gang from Liverpool. Sergeant Dave Christmas said: *"I welcome the sentence handed to Grannell and I hope that it provides reassurance to the residents who were impacted by her behaviour. This case was part of our ongoing crackdown on county lines drug dealing and while Grannell is now behind bars and we will continue to crackdown on county lines dealers coming into our town."* CI Gary Smith, of Northwich Local Policing Unit, said: *"Illegal drugs have a hugely detrimental impact and we are committed to doing all we can to remove those involved in the supply of such drugs from our communities. Information from the public is vital in this 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 via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>.

Police investigating a further incident in Rode Heath

Police are investigating a further report of what is believed to be a pellet gun being fired in Rode Heath. At around 8.15pm on Monday 20 September police were called to report of shots being fired in the Millmead area of Rode Heath. Local officers, supported by the firearms unit and police helicopter, were dispatched to the scene and conducted a search of the area but there was no trace of any suspects. There were no reports of any injuries. Enquiries remain ongoing and officers are looking at whether the previous incidents on Sunday evening, where two men received minor injuries, are connected to Monday's reported incident. Detectives are urging anyone with any information to get in touch. DCI Claire Jesson said: *"Following the incidents on Sunday evening I understand that the police activity in the area tonight is likely to have caused concern and I would like to reassure residents that we are committed to doing all we can to identifying those responsible. Patrols have been stepped up in the area and I would urge anyone with any information, no matter how small, to call us on 101 quoting IML 1089712."*

Man charged in connection with Runcorn burglary series

Detectives investigating a series of burglaries in the Runcorn area have charged a man in relation to the incidents. Liam Lingham, of Laburnum Grove, Runcorn was arrested on Monday 20 September. The 26-year-old has since been charged with three counts of burglary other than a dwelling, attempted burglary with intent to steal and vehicle interference. The charges relate to five incidents which occurred between 11 March 2021 and 27 June 2021. Lingham has been remanded in police custody and is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court today, Tuesday 21 September.

Two men arrested following Bosley drugs raid

Two men have today (Monday 20 September) been arrested as part of a police investigation into the organised supply of illegal drugs in the Macclesfield area. The pair, aged 28 and 38, were both arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to supply Class A drugs following a warrant at an address on Buxton Road, Bosley. They are currently being held in police custody assisting officers with their enquiries. During the raid officers recovered a quantity of class A and B drugs. Following the warrant Sergeant Paul Brunton, of Congleton Beat Team, said: *"Today's warrant is the culmination of a lengthy investigation into the supply of illegal drugs in the Macclesfield area and I hope it provides reassurance to local residents. Drugs have a hugely detrimental impact on our communities, causing widespread misery. As such, cutting off supplies of illegal drugs and removing dealers from our streets is of paramount importance. As part of our efforts to bring those responsible to justice, we also need support from the local community. I would appeal to anyone who has any information about illegal drug activity or any other criminal activity taking place in their communities to contact us on 101, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."*

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Investigation continues following serious assault in Northwich

Police are continuing to appeal for witnesses and video footage following a serious assault in Northwich. Shortly after 7pm on Thursday 23 September police were called to reports of an incident outside Pure Gym on Leicester Street. Officers attended the scene and found that a 20-year-old man from Winsford had been stabbed. The man was taken to Aintree Hospital where he remains in a stable condition. DCI Justin Hancock said: *"This investigation is ongoing and we are doing everything we can to establish the full circumstance of what happened last night and to locate the person responsible. Clearly this will cause concern within the local area and I would like to reassure residents that this is believed to have been a targeted attack and there is no risk to the wider community. A scene remains in place outside the gym and as part of our enquiries we are keen to hear from anyone who was in the area at the time and believes they may have witnessed the incident. The same goes for anyone with any dashcam or video footage that may be relevant to our investigation. I'd urge anyone with any information, no matter how small, to get in touch."* CI Gary Smith, head of Northwich Local Policing Unit added: *"I understand the concerns that this incident is likely to cause and I am aware that there are rumors circulating online – however, I would urge people not to speculate. This is believed to be an isolated incident and patrols have been stepped up in the local area. Anyone with any concerns is encouraged to speak a local officer."* Anyone with information or CCTV footage that may help the ongoing investigation should call Cheshire Police on 101, quoting IML 1091902. Alternatively you can submit information online via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua> .

Detectives investigating burglary in Upton appeal for information

Detectives investigating a burglary in Upton are appealing for information from members of the public. At 1.30pm on Wednesday 23 September a man knocked on the door of an address on Devon Road. The man spoke to the occupant telling him there were problems with the roof. He then walked round to the back of the house with the victim and continued to speak to him. During this time another individual has entered the house via the front door to search the property and stolen a quantity of money. The man who spoke to the occupant is described as white, aged in his late twenties to early thirties and wearing a face covering, dark coloured trousers and top. Enquiries are ongoing to identify both individuals and police are appealing for the public's help. DC Scott Buckley, from Chester Local Policing Unit, said: *"At this stage we believe that the man deliberately engaged in conversation with the occupant in order to distract him while the other offender burgled the house. As part of our enquiries I want to encourage anyone who lives in the area and has CCTV or dash cam footage that could show the offenders to please get in touch. We also believe that the offenders may have been canvassing in the area over the last few weeks and residents may have been approached by them asking to do repairs to the roof. If you have please do contact us. Any information could greatly assist the investigation."* If you have information please contact Cheshire Constabulary via the website or call 101 quoting IML 1090860. Information can also be provided anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information to a serious assault at Warrington's Neighbourhood Weekender

Detectives investigating a serious assault at Warrington's Neighbourhood Weekender are appealing for information from members of the public. A 31-year-old man from Burnley was punched in the face at around 7.15pm on Sunday 5 September. The assault took place 150 metres from back from the main stage, near to the bar on the left hand side. The victim was treated by paramedics at the festival and attended to Warrington Hospital. The offender is described as white, around 5'10" tall, of an average to slim build with a number of individual tattoos on at least one of his legs. He is believed to have been wearing a khaki green bucket hat, short sleeved dark green T-shirt and shorts. Enquiries have been ongoing and police are encouraging anyone with information to get in touch. DC Laura Gilbert, from Warrington's Local Policing Unit, said: *"This was a serious and what we believe to be an unprovoked assault while the victim was with his girlfriend. He sustained some significant injuries to his face which will require ongoing hospital treatment. Since the assault was reported to police we have been conducting numerous enquiries including viewing CCTV footage and are keen to hear from anyone who may have information. The area was busy at the time the assault occurred with revellers enjoying the music and therefore someone may have seen the assault take place and I would ask you to come forward. I also want to appeal to anyone who may recognise the man described as being the alleged offender or perhaps you have photos or videos that identify him or show the assault taking place, if so please do get in touch."* If you can assist detectives with their investigation please contact Cheshire Constabulary via 101 or by visiting the force's [website](#) and quote IML 1079201. Information can also be provided anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Detectives investigating serious assault in Macclesfield release CCTV image

Detectives investigating a serious assault in Macclesfield have released a cctv image of two people they would like to speak to in connection with the incident. Emergency services were called to Pickford Street, Macclesfield at around 2.45am on Sunday 12 September, following reports of a large altercation outside of Zinc Nightclub. Three people sustained serious injuries, and were taken to hospital. They have since been released from hospital. A 22-year-old man from Macclesfield was arrested in relation to the incident and has since been released under investigation. Detectives are now seeking to identify two other people in connection with this incident, and are appealing for anyone who may recognise the man and woman in the CCTV to get in touch. Officers are also looking for anyone who may have captured the incident on their mobile device to contact us so that we can review the footage as part of our enquiries. DC Thomas Towe said: *"The victims all sustained serious injuries due to this incident. This whole incident has been a frightening experience for the victims, who were all lucky not to have been more seriously injured. We have carried out a number of enquiries and we are now asking for the public's help."* We are asking for anyone who may have seen the incident, anyone who has information or, anyone who can identify the female and male within the CCTV footage, to contact Cheshire Police. Anyone with information should call police on 101 quoting incident



IML-1083184 or report it via our [website](#). Alternatively, information can be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via their [website](#).

Police appeal for information following Rode Heath incidents

Police are appealing for witnesses following a number of incidents in the Rode Heath area. At 9.26pm on Sunday 19 September police, supported by armed officers, attended Sandbach Road in Rode Heath. There had been reports of three men with air rifles in the area shooting ducks, then a report of a man walking along the Rode Heath Rise when he was hit with a pellet causing a minor injury. A second report was received of a man in the car park of the Broughton Arms reporting the same. The driver of a car driving along B5078 at Chells Hill also reported damage to his car which may have been from an air gun. The incidents all occurred between 8.30pm and 9pm. DC Mitch Allford said: *“Obviously this has caused some concern to the community, but we are doing everything we can to find those responsible. We are making a number enquiries in the area and are keen to speak to anyone who may have seen three men carrying a gun bag in the area Rode Heath and Chells Hill, along the Trent and Mersey canal towpath near Rode Heath. If you were driving through Rode Heath or Chells Hill between 8.15pm and 9.30pm and you have dash cam footage of the three men, please contact us to help us with our investigation.”* Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the website quoting IML 1088996. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information following Winwick robbery

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and video footage after an electric bike was stolen from a man on the outskirts of Warrington. At around 7pm on Wednesday 15 September the victim, a 59-year-old man, was riding his electric bike along the Sankey Valley Trail travelling towards Newton-le-Willows. As he got towards the outskirts of Newton-le-Willows, near to Wargrave Road, the man was confronted by two unknown men. The pair threatened the victim and demanded that he handed his electric bike, which is worth more than £5,000. Fearing for his safety, the man handed over the bike and the two suspects fled the scene, travelling in the direction of Warrington. Both of the offenders are described as being white men, of slim build and around 5'9" tall. They were both wearing dark jackets and had local accents.

DC Nicola Charnock, of Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: *“The victim in this case had 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. 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 Canondale Moterra black electric bike which is easily identifiable.”* If you have any information, no matter how small, please call us on 101, quoting IML 1085858 or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>.

Police appeal to trace HGV driver following serious collision near Holmes Chapel

Officers investigating a serious collision near Holmes Chapel are appealing to the public to help identify a HGV driver believed to have stopped at the scene. 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. Two men, aged 30 and 33, have since been arrested in relation to the incident, they have both been released under investigation pending further enquiries. Now, as part of ongoing enquiries officers are appealing to the public to help identify a HGV driver who is believed to have stopped at the scene. Sergeant Jonathan Marsden said: *"This was a serious collision which has left the victim with potentially life-changing injuries. We have already completed a number of enquiries and as part of our ongoing investigation we are keen to hear from a HGV driver who is reported to have stopped at the scene and spoken to a number of people present. The man was reportedly driving a white heavy goods vehicle, possibly a Volvo. I would urge the driver, or anyone who thinks they know his identity, to get in touch – you are not in any trouble but we believe you may hold vital information."* Any information can be reported to Cheshire Police by calling 101 quoting IML 1084615 or report it via www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report. Information can also be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or report it via www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously.

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

Cheshire-Neighbourhood-Watch-Association-(CNWA)

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In partnership with



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