

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021

## Cheshire News & Appeals



### Latest Cheshire News

#### Two people charged in connection with high-value thefts

Detectives investigating a series of high-value thefts across Cheshire have charged two people. Edward Warde, of Warrington Road, Runcorn, was arrested on Tuesday 26 October. The 35-year-old has since been charged with assault by beating, driving while disqualified and theft from a shop. A 14-year-old boy, also from the Runcorn area, has been charged with theft from a shop. The pair are both set to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court later today, Thursday 28 October. The charges relates to a number of incidents across Cheshire involving the theft of cigarettes from retail stores.

#### Celebrate Hallowe'en safely - and considerately - urges Cheshire Police

As Hallowe'en approaches, police officers are urging people to enjoy themselves safely this year, whilst doing so within the law. There will be an increased officer presence in certain areas across the county to provide reassurance to the local community and help to prevent incidents occurring. Superintendent Mike Evans, who is leading on the policing operation said: *"We will be working closely with our partners, such as Cheshire Fire and Rescue service and local councils, to minimise disruption around the Hallowe'en period and keep communities safe. We recognise anti-social behaviour and arson can have a significant impact on any victim and to the local areas and this is why it is vital that we all work extremely hard together to help keep our communities safe."* There will be an increased officer presence in some areas of the county to provide reassurance to the public and anyone who may have any concerns at this time. If anyone has any concerns for their safety or property then they should contact Cheshire Police and report it, either via 101 or 999. Superintendent Evans added: *"Hallowe'en by nature is a fun time of year, however for some members of the public, harmless fun could have a lasting effect on others. Please be remember to be considerate this Hallowe'en and respect one another."* Anti-social behaviour is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in Cheshire. Cheshire's Police and Crime Commissioner John Dwyer said: *"Hallowe'en, Mischief Night and Bonfire Night, are all events we can enjoy with family and friends. However, there are often a small number of individuals who take it a little too far and overstep the mark between fun and anti-social behaviour. Anti-social behaviour can have a devastating effect on local communities, and it is one of the most common issues reported to police in Cheshire. Every person has the right to feel safe and protected by the law, particularly within their home, their street and local community. I echo the sentiments of Superintendent Mike Evans, and encourage you all to have fun, but be mindful and considerate of one another."* Anyone who believes they have been a target of crime, which includes anti-social behaviour, over the Hallowe'en period do not hesitate in reporting it to Cheshire Police either via the online form on the [website](#), alternatively, by phoning 101. If it's an emergency always, dial 999. [Halloween - Trick or treat yes or no posters.pdf](#)

## Man arrested following successful stop and search in Runcorn

Officers have arrested a man on suspicion of possession with intent to supply class B drugs and possession of a bladed article following a successful police stop and search in Runcorn. At around 4.10pm Saturday 23 October officers on patrol in Runcorn stopped a 35-year-old man on the busway near to Palacefields Avenue. When searching the man officers recovered a knife and a small amount of cannabis. The man was arrested at the scene and a search warrant was subsequently conducted at an address linked to him, where officers recovered a further quantity of what is believed to be cannabis. The man was questioned by officers and has since been released under investigation pending further enquiries.

## Parents of six-month-old boy convicted following his death

The father of a six-month-old boy who sustained catastrophic trauma injuries has been convicted of his murder. Mihai-Catalin Gulie, 28, was today (Monday 25 October) found guilty of the murder of Robert Ion following a three-week trial at Liverpool Crown Court. Roberts mum, Gabriela Ion, aged 35, was found guilty of causing/allowing his death. The pair are both due to be sentenced at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 26 November. Baby Robert had been diagnosed with Downs Syndrome from birth and had spent the first few months of his life in hospital. The court heard that on 18 February 2021, Ion had left the family home on Mersey Road, Widnes, at 11.25am to go to the shop before returning a few minutes later at 11.31am. When she got inside the house, she saw Gulie with the baby who said that Robert appeared unwell. They began to place water on his face in an attempt to revive him and tapped his back. Gulie, a Romanian national, called a family friend to ring an ambulance as he does not speak English. When paramedics arrived, they found Robert on the sofa with no signs of life so immediately began CPR. After six minutes they were able to move Robert to the ambulance before taking him to hospital. He was placed into an induced coma in order to stabilise him. On assessment, it was revealed that Robert was in a critical condition and had sustained a skull fracture and an irreversible non-survivable brain injury. Further tests found Robert had also sustained additional injuries including fractured ribs and a brain injury, which are believed to date back to around 7 February. Tragically, despite the best efforts of medical staff, Robert passed away three days later on 21 February. An investigation was launched and officers arrested both parents on suspicion of Robert's murder and they were subsequently charged. In an interview with police, Gulie also stated that he loved Robert and would never hurt him – he denied causing any injury to Robert and that he handled him as a 'jewel'. He told officers how he had spent £4,000 in taxi fares going to and from hospitals in the first few months of his life. Police examination of Ion's phone found that she had been searching how to remove bruises. DI Nigel Parr, who was in charge of the investigation, said: *"This has been an extremely difficult and emotional case for all involved. Robert's death was horrific. He had already fought for the first few months of his life with various health issues only to suffer further and have his life cruelly taken away from him by the people who should have cared for him the most. What Gulie and Ion did is unimaginable and they are now facing the consequences of their actions behind bars. I hope that that the verdict reached today will in some way help Robert's wider family to find some form of closure after an incredibly difficult experience."* Following the verdict Robert's wider family said: *"The last few months have been incredibly difficult losing Robert so suddenly without knowing the reasons why. We are all very shocked and we still haven't recovered from*



Gabriela Ion

Mihai-Catalin Gulie



*this shock yet especially now we have found out what Robert went through. Robert was a beautiful, happy, content baby who was cruelly taken away from us in the place where he should have been protected and safe. We are a close family and whilst it will take some time to process what has happened, we take comfort from the support we have had from the local community and the police since Robert's death. From the bottom of our hearts we hope that Robert can now finally rest in peace"*

DI Parr added: *"I would like to thank the team of officers who have worked on this very difficult and challenging case and who have helped to secure these convictions at court and get justice for Robert."*

## **Latest Cheshire Appeals**

### **Murder investigation launched following death of man in Audlem**

Detectives have launched a murder investigation following the death of a man in Audlem. It is believed Andrew Guy was assaulted at an address on Stafford Street on the evening of Saturday 16 October. The 54-year-old then travelled by car to an address in Buerton, Crewe and his body was found the following morning. The victim's family are being supported by officers. Following a home office post mortem his death is being treated as murder and enquiries are ongoing to establish the circumstances. A man and a woman have been arrested and are currently in custody being questioned by detectives. Police are appealing to members of the public to come forward with information. DCI Helena Banusic, from Cheshire Constabulary's Major Investigation Team, said: *"We are following numerous lines of enquiry to establish what led to Andrew's death. We know that he travelled to Stafford Street in a grey VW Polo sometime between 5pm and 10pm on Saturday 16 October. We also know Andrew had spent the last four months living in the Bournemouth area and appealing for anyone who knew him to come forward. I am also appealing to members of the public to get in touch if they have information that could help with his movements that evening. If people in the area can check their CCTV, dash cam and cycle footage between 5pm and 10pm and contact police if you believe it could assist with the investigation. A number of officers will be in the Audlem area conducting house-to-house and CCTV enquiries. At this stage we do not believe there is a wider threat to anyone else however if you have concerns please do speak to a local officer."* If you have information or footage that could assist with the investigation please contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 quoting IML 1110375 or visit our [website](#). Information can also be passed on anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### **Detectives investigating armed robbery at convenience store in Warrington appeal for information**

Detectives investigating an armed robbery at a shop in Warrington are appealing for information from the public. Two men, believed to be armed with a knife and hammer, stole a quantity of cigarettes from a convenience store on Cinnamon Lane North in Poulton-with-Fearnhead. The men approached a member of staff who was closing the store at the time. They told the staff member to open the door and then took the keys. After stealing the items they then fled in a car. The robbery took place shortly after 10pm on Thursday 28 October. One of the men is described as white, approximately 5'7" to 5'10" tall and dressed in grey and dark green. The other is described as being around 5'7" to 5'10" tall and dressed in black. Both men were wearing balaclavas. Detectives are continuing with their enquiries and asking anyone with information, CCTV or dash cam footage to get in touch. DS Victoria Tait, from Warrington CID, said: *"Officers have been reviewing CCTV and conducting house-to-house enquiries as part of their enquiries. I am also encouraging members of the public who may have been in the area, where these two men were, to contact police if you*

*have information that may assist with our enquiries. I would also ask residents and drivers to check their CCTV or dash cam footage and come forward if you believe it may be useful to the investigation. The member of staff was not injured during the robbery and immediately contacted police.”* If you have information please contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 quoting IML 1119377 or visit the [website](#). Information can also be provided anonymously by calling Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## **Appeal for information and dashcam footage following fatal collision near Nantwich**

Officers are appealing for information and dashcam following a fatal collision near Nantwich. Shortly after around 11.30am on Tuesday 26 October police were called to reports that a silver car had come off the carriageway and landed in a field near Cheerbrook Roundabout, at the junction of the A51 and A500. Police and fire attended the scene and on arrival they found that the car was well alight at the side of the road. Sadly, despite the best efforts of all those involved, the driver of the car was pronounced dead at the scene. Formal identification of the driver has not yet taken place. Enquiries in relation to the collision are ongoing and as part of their enquiries officers are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the collision, or anyone with any 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](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua), quoting IML 1117363.

## **Motorists urged to remain cautious following reports of fraudulent meet and greet parking scam**

Police are urging motorists to be on their guard following reports of fraudulent meet and greet parking companies operating near to Manchester Airport. Over the past month, officers have received six separate reports of incidents relating to a number of meet and greet parking companies. The companies involved are allegedly based in Cheshire and none of them are officially affiliated with the airport. The majority of the reports have involved travellers who have returned from their holiday to find that their vehicles have travelled hundreds of miles while they were away. On one occasion, a woman returned from her holiday to find police had seized her car after it was driven without insurance. In another case the owner returned to find their car had been driven to Northamptonshire, when they believed it was being stored securely at a local car park. PC Jaspreet Kaur, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: *“We are looking into these reports and our enquiries are ongoing. We are working closely with the local Trading Standards team to establish the full circumstances of what has happened. I’d urge anyone who has had a similar experience in Cheshire to get in touch. I’d also urge motorists using meet and greet services to remain cautious, check company reviews and make sure they only use reputable companies. It’s important that you read the full terms and conditions before signing any contracts and take a photograph of your current mileage before handing over your vehicle.”* A spokesperson for Manchester Airport said: *“We are disappointed to hear that certain unscrupulous third-party parking operators are misleading customers in this way. These providers are in no way connected to Manchester Airport and we would always recommend customers do their research into a company before handing their keys over. As well as Manchester Airport’s own parking products, there are a number of reputable providers in the area and we encourage customers to use initiatives such as Park Mark and the government-backed Buy with Confidence scheme to find one that has undergone a series of detailed checks and is committed to trading fairly. We will continue to support the police and our neighbouring councils’ trading standards teams in doing all we can to raise awareness and tackle this issue.”* Anyone with

any information in relation to the incidents, or anyone who believes that they may have been a victim, is asked to call Cheshire police on 101 or visit [www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report).

## Police appeal for information following assault in Warrington

Police are appealing for information and video footage following a serious assault in Warrington. At around 7.30pm on Monday 25 October police were called to reports that a 20-year-old man had been assaulted on Winchester Avenue, Great Sankey. The man was sat in his car, a blue Vauxhall Corsa, when an unknown offender smashed his window with what is believed to be an axe before hitting the victim in the head. The offender then fled the scene in the direction of Dorchester Avenue. He is described as white man and around 40-year-old. He was wearing a high visibility jacket and blue jeans. The victim was taken to Warrington District General Hospital; his injuries are not believed to be serious. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and as part of their investigation officers are keen to hear from anyone with any information in relation to the incident. DI Helen Clegg said: *"This investigation is ongoing and we are doing all we can to identify the person responsible. At this time it appears to be an isolated incident. As part of our enquiries we are keen to hear from anyone who was in the area and believes they may have witnessed the incident or seen anything suspicious in the area. The same goes for anyone with any dashcam or CCTV footage that may be relevant to our investigation. I'd urge anyone with any information, no matter how small, to get in touch."* CI Neil Drum, head of Warrington Local Policing Unit added: *"I understand that the incident is likely to cause concern within the community and I would like to reassure residents that we are doing all we can to establish what took place. Officers will be out and about on patrol in the local area and anyone with any concerns is encouraged to speak to them."* Anyone with information or CCTV footage that may help the ongoing investigation should call Cheshire Police on 101, quoting IML 1116966. Alternatively you can submit information online via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua>.

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

### Cheshire-Neighbourhood-Watch-Association-(CNWA)

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