

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association
Week ending 25 December 2022
Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Man charged in connection with murder in Warrington



Detectives investigating the murder of Billy Moore (pictured) in Warrington have charged a man in connection with the incident.

Billy, 31, sadly died following an incident at an address in Yardley Avenue in Bewsey and Whitecross on Thursday 22 December.

James Ireland was arrested in connection with the incident at around 4.40pm on Saturday 24 December.

The 41-year-old, of Lodge Lane, Bewsey and Whitecross, has since been charged with murder.

Ireland has been remanded in custody and is set appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Monday 26 December 2022.

A 44-year-old woman who was arrested on suspicion of murder in relation to the incident has since been released on conditional bail.

Two men from Ellesmere Port jailed for importing 95kg of cannabis from Spain

Two men who imported over 95 kilograms of cannabis from Spain to the UK have been sentenced to a combined total of six years in prison.

Jack Pritchard and Matthew Hall were jailed following a hearing at Chester Crown Court on Friday 9 December.

The men pleaded guilty to conspiracy to Import a Class B controlled drug with intent to evade a prohibition.

Hall also pleaded guilty to offering to supply a Class A controlled drug (cocaine).

Hall, aged 30, of Northern Rise in Great Sutton and Pritchard, aged 26, of Scotton Avenue in Little Sutton, were at the head of the operation and in charge of sourcing and importing large quantities of cannabis from Spain and then organising the onward supply of the cannabis in the UK.

The pair recruited others from Ellesmere Port as the recipients for the large number of cannabis orders placed with their supplier in Spain.

In September 2020, four packages containing cannabis, all heading to addresses in Ellesmere Port, were intercepted by the UK Border Agency who then notified Cheshire Constabulary.

On Friday 2 October 2020, following an investigation known as Operation Flintlocks, officers executed searches at addresses on Heath Grove, Kronsbeck Avenue, Scotton Avenue, Tennyson Road, and Aldgate in Ellesmere Port.

Following the searches, 19 kilograms of cannabis was seized.

The investigation was also able to prove that a total of 95 kilograms of cannabis had been imported by the group with a potential street value of £1,117,640.

Detective Constable Wellings said: "This was an extensive and complex investigation which clearly showed Pritchard and Hall as head members of a calculated plan to bring illegal drugs into Ellesmere Port.

"These men have a clear disregard for the law, and I hope the sentences handed to them will provide reassurance to residents who have been affected by their actions.

"Drugs such as these have no place on our streets and by tackling Hall and Pritchard and seizing large quantities of illegal substances, we have been able to intervene and take these drugs off the streets of Ellesmere Port.

"I hope this sends a clear message that drugs have no place in the town and we are committed to doing all we can to remove those involved in the supply of such drugs from our communities."

If you have information relating to drug activity taking place in your community, please report it via the website or anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 and Cheshire Constabulary will do the rest.



Man sentenced after stealing £20,000 from elderly woman

A man who stole approximately £20,000 from an elderly woman has been sentenced.

Dean Clarke appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 16 December where he was sentenced to a total of four years in prison.

Clarke, age 30, of Waterloo Close, Blackburn, had earlier pleaded guilty to the offence.

During the sentencing hearing, the court heard that the victim was a vulnerable, elderly woman who lived in Warrington.

She was contacted by a man, purporting to be from her bank's fraud department, on Thursday 23 June.

An unknown man then attended the victim's home shortly after to collect her bank card and banking information.

A number of fraudulent transactions began to take place and large amounts of cash were removed from the victim's accounts.

Between Thursday 23 June and Wednesday 29 June, the victim was defrauded by approximately £50,000 with Clarke admitting to being responsible for nearly £20,000 of this amount.

He also attempted to make a further £20,000 worth of transactions, which failed at point of sale.

The incident was reported to Cheshire Constabulary who launched an investigation, and Clarke was arrested and subsequently charged.

Following the sentencing, Detective Constable Joe Davies said: *"I welcome the sentence that has been handed to Clarke, who exploited an 84-year-old woman and cleaned out her entire life savings.*

"As a result of a thorough investigation, we were able to put forward a catalogue of evidence against Clarke, complete with CCTV images taken of him using the card at eleven different locations.

"Clarke knew what he was doing by targeting the most vulnerable in our communities and held no regard for the victim or the law.

"I would like to praise the victim for coming forward and helping us bring Clarke to justice and shine a light on the real impact that this crime can have on people's lives.

"As this case demonstrates, we treat all allegations of fraud seriously and I encourage anyone who believes that they, or someone that they know, has been a victim to report it.

"You will be listened to, and we will do all that we can to ensure that the people responsible are held accountable for their actions."

Anyone who believes that they have been a victim of fraud is urged to contact Cheshire Police [via the website](#) or call 101.

For advice about fraud, please [visit the website](#).



CCTV image released following spate of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour in Crewe



Officers investigating a spate of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour in Crewe have issued a CCTV image of a man that they would like to speak to.

Just after 12.30pm on Saturday 17 December, a report was made that an unknown man had walked along Bright Street and had been depositing faeces and nails along the road.

This caused a tyre on a nearby vehicle to puncture.

Residents have reported this behaviour has been ongoing for some time.

A number of enquiries are underway and as part of these, officers have issued CCTV of a man they would like to speak to in connection with the incident.

Police Constable Lorna Allix said:

“This utterly disgusting behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community and it is totally unacceptable.

“We are following a number of enquiries in the local area and as part of these we are keen to identify the man pictured in the CCTV as we believe he is key to our investigation.

“I understand the CCTV image is not clear but if anyone has any information, no matter how big or small, please get in touch with us.

“I would urge the community to continue to provide us with any information that could lead us to finding the person responsible.”

Anyone with information is asked to contact Cheshire Police via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/police-forces/cheshire-constabulary/areas/cheshire/about-us/about-us/provide-more-information-about-an-appeal/> quoting IML 1437176 or call 101.

Two men jailed for stealing historic York stone from churches

Three men have been sentenced after pleading guilty to stealing York stone from churches in Cheshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Lancashire.

The three men appeared at Chester Crown Court on 21 December 2022 to be sentenced.

Jason Perry, (below), 49, from Wallshaw Street, Oldham pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to steal stone, driving whilst disqualified and handling a stolen vehicle. He was sentenced to four years imprisonment.



Connor Lipinski, (below), 28, from Gale Court ,Rochdale admitted the conspiracy to steal stone at an earlier hearing. He was sentenced to three years imprisonment.



Owen Lipinski, 31 from Gale Court, Rochdale also pleaded guilty to conspiracy to steal stone. He was handed a 15 month suspended sentence.

Between January and March 2022 the men had taken historic York stones from Church of All Saints, Glossop, Derbyshire; St Cuthberts, Hassall, Lancashire; St Michael Church Aughton, Lancashire; St Ambrose CE Church, Grindleton, Lancashire; Ormskirk Parish Church, Lancashire; All Saints Church, Grindon, Staffordshire and St Mary's Church, Astbury, Cheshire.

All the churches affected were of historic significance, with four being grade one listed. The total repair bill has come to approximately more than £125,000.

Their spree came to an end when officers from Cheshire Constabulary's Rural Crime Team identified Perry's vehicle during their investigation into the theft at St Mary's Church in Astbury. Perry's vehicle was caught on CCTV at the church leading them to more and more evidence linking them to the crimes.

Raids were carried out on Wednesday 27 July at addresses in Middleton, Oldham and Rochdale by officers from Cheshire Constabulary's Rural Crime Team with the assistance of colleagues from Lancashire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, and Greater Manchester Police. The Lipinski's and Perry were arrested simultaneously in the raids.

They were later charged with the conspiracy to commit the thefts and Perry was also charged with handling a stolen motor vehicle and driving while disqualified.

The investigation identified the location the stolen stone had been sold on to, which meant officers were able to arrange the return of some stone to three of the effected churches. A supplier of illicit number plates was also identified, searched under warrant and shut down. All three involved stolen vehicles were also recovered and returned to their rightful owners.

PC Rob Stordy said:

“By working together with other forces and with the expert help and advice from Historic England, we have brought these men to justice for pillaging our rich history.

“These crimes impacted the heart of our rural communities and left most of the paths impassable due to the damage the men had caused by removing the stones.

“I hope today’s result sends a message to thieves that rural crime is taken extremely seriously. We will do all we can to get justice for our rural residents and keep Cheshire a hostile environment for criminals.”

Mark Harrison, Head of Heritage Crime Strategy at Historic England said:

“The outcome of this case highlights the benefits of collaborative working between the Cheshire Constabulary, Crown Prosecution Service, church communities and Historic England and is an approach we shall continue to use when dealing with the theft of historic stone.

“The theft of stone from historic church buildings is serious organised acquisitive crime.

“Removing large areas of paving from church buildings has not just a serious financial impact on church communities but a significant impact on their morale.

“The stone stolen in this case will have historic and cultural value and its removal can lead to irreparable loss and damage not just to individual communities but to the whole nation, which is why tackling this type of heritage crime is so important.”

Drug dealer ordered to pay back over £190,000 of his ill-gotten gains.



The ring-leader of a drugs gang has been ordered to pay more than £190,000 of his ill-gotten gains.

Operation Ferrets was launched by detectives from Chester CID in April 2020 after the UK Border Force intercepted a number of parcels containing cannabis.

Following a detailed investigation the team conducted a series of warrants at addresses across Cheshire, North Wales and Shropshire, Thursday 18 February 2021 leading to the arrest of ten people in connection with the importation of Class B drugs.

The ring-leader of the gang was Jordan Mehta, who ran his criminal empire from his home on Shrewsbury Street, Prees.

Mehta was subsequently charged with conspiracy to supply Class B drugs, evading a prohibition on the importation of a Class B drug and money laundering offences.

The 38-year-old pleaded guilty to all of the charges and was sentenced to 45 months in prison at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 16 September 2021.

Following his sentencing, Financial Investigators at Cheshire Police embarked on an extensive confiscation investigation into the lifestyle of Mehta.

The investigation was complicated by the fact that he had previously been the subject of confiscation proceedings and as such had sought to conceal his current assets.

Despite his best efforts, investigators managed to establish a number of bank accounts linked to Mehta, including accounts belonging to his businesses, and that were controlled by him, but not held in his name.

Through this thorough and extensive investigation police were able to show that Mehta had benefitted by around £1.3million from his criminal lifestyle.

Of the money gained officers were able to prove that he was still in possession of £193,467.42 worth of assets.

These included equity in his home and his half share of the profits from the sale of a litter of puppies worth a total of almost £160,000.

Following the investigation, Mehta was called back to Chester Crown Court on Monday 28 November where he was ordered to pay back £193,467.42 within three

months. A compliance order was also granted to ensure that he cannot utilise any previously hidden funds to pay his order.

If Mehta fails to pay the order he will face a further custodial sentence, while still being liable to pay the order.

Two other members of the conspiracy had already had confiscation orders made removing a further £9,585.00 of assets from those involved.

There are still ongoing proceedings against a further two others, with more expected asset recovery.

Detective Inspector Kelly-Ann Cain said:

“The Confiscation Order in this case sends a strong message that Cheshire Constabulary takes the recovery of the Proceeds of Crime seriously.

“It highlights the importance of asset recovery considerations, running through out an investigation to maximise the opportunities to recover significant sums, derived from criminality.

“The Financial Investigator in this case worked tirelessly to accomplish this result through a tenacious and diligent approach to the investigation, leaving no stone unturned in pursuit of asset recovery.”

Northwich LPU rewards inspirational local children



Inspirational local children and their families have attended Northwich Police Station to receive much deserved early Christmas presents.

The inaugural Christmas Awards were held on Tuesday 20 December and Wednesday 21 December in recognition of the inspiring work that 60 children have done in the community.

They each received a Christmas hamper and a certificate, and had the chance to meet the team at Northwich Local Policing Unit and Cheshire Constabulary mascot PC Panda.

Northwich LPU Sergeant Leanne Brundrett said:

“Our officers and PCSOs have worked with the local schools to recognise children who have gone above and beyond either at school or in the community that they live in.

“This includes by supporting their mum in a medical emergency; fundraising and giving up their pocket money for food, clothing and equipment for the homeless; raising money for charities; working in a community garden; doing litter picks at break times, being eco-friendly officers and junior safety officers; and showing an excellent attitude in school.

“These children are our future, and it is important that they are recognised for their amazing work and encouraged to continue with this positive attitude in life.

“It was a pleasure for me and the rest of the team at Northwich LPU to meet the children and their families, and we wish them all a very happy Christmas and New Year.”

Northwich LPU has also been making and delivering hampers to local residents from Monday 19 December.



Sergeant Leanne Brundrett, Grayson Webster and Inspector Jason Murray

Sgt Brundrett added:

“We know that times are tougher than ever at the moment, due to the cost of living and energy price rises.

“We also know that there are members of the community we serve who are in particular need of a happy Christmas.

“Local shops have assisted us with donations, and the Christmas hampers have been prepared by our Beat Managers and PCSOs.

“We hope that the residents who receive the hampers enjoy them.”

Northwich LPU Chief Inspector Darren Griffiths said:

“I am extremely proud of all the officers and PCSO involved in these initiatives and the dedication and enthusiasm they have shown to make a difference to people’s lives.

“They have gone over and above their core duties in order to recognise the great work that is being undertaken in our local communities and to give a helping hand to people in need over Christmas.”



PC Pete Taylor and Grayson Webster



Fraudsters who duped vulnerable victims into handing over thousands jailed



Patrick McDonagh

Kevin Greene

Judy Greene

Four fraudsters who duped vulnerable victims in Ellesmere Port and Wirral into handing over thousands of pounds have been sentenced.

Patrick McDonagh, 38, of no fixed address, was sentenced in July for conspiracy to commit fraud and money laundering.

The three remaining fraudsters were sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 15 December.

The sentences are as follows:

- Patrick McDonagh was handed 45 months imprisonment for conspiring to commit fraud and money laundering
- Judy Greene, 50, of Maesquarre Road, Carmarthenshire, was sentenced to 30 months imprisonment for money laundering
- Kevin Greene, 56, of Maesquarre Road, Carmarthenshire was sentenced to 30 months imprisonment for money laundering
- Robert Lloyd, 33, of Fford Canton, Bagillt was sentenced to six months imprisonment suspended for 18 months for money laundering

The court heard how the McDonagh was the head of the fraudulent enterprise - using a well-known website, that allows the public to look for tradespeople, to target vulnerable victims.

In August 2020, an elderly woman from Ellesmere Port posted an advert on the site asking for recommendations for garden maintenance work.

McDonagh contacted the victim under the name Woodcare Ltd and convinced her that she needed a new block-paved driveway.

Over three weeks the woman parted with £61,800 – and was directed to send the money to two separate bank accounts registered to Robert Lloyd and husband and wife - Judy and Kevin Greene.

Once the work had been completed, a concerned member of the public contacted Cheshire Police and an extensive investigation began.

Officers then uncovered how another victim, who was registered blind, ended up handing over £17,800 to the scammer for maintenance work at his address in Bromborough, Wirral, which included no more than basic weeding of the garden, repointing of a wall and jet washing of a patio.

The victim was told that he required new damp course at the property and McDonagh said he had installed this and was covered by the price.

Officers asked a chartered surveyor to attend both the two victim's addresses to provide an estimation for the work that was completed.

He assessed the work at the Ellesmere Port home found that the work was no more than £6,800 with the work being substandard – nowhere near the £61,800 figure.

The work at the Bromborough home was estimated as costing a maximum £1,600 – he also found that the damp course had never been undertaken.

McDonagh was found to be using bank accounts of associates Lloyd and the Greene family to launder the money from his victims. This money was quickly withdrawn as cash and used to purchase high-value vehicles such as a Ford Ranger which were quickly sold on.

He even treated his family to a luxury holiday in Antalya, Turkey however this proved to be his downfall as he booked the holiday using an unregistered mobile phone which was printed on his Woodcare Ltd flyers.

All were arrested and subsequently charged with fraud offences.

In the weeks leading up to the trial, officers from Victoria in Australia contacted Cheshire Constabulary stating that McDonagh was suspected in defrauding a vulnerable woman out of \$1,000,000 - her entire lifesavings.

He had befriended the woman in between January 2020 and January 2021 – convincing her that he needed a loan to set up his business down under.

Even when he returned to the UK, he continued to coax money from the woman, using excuses such as needing to pay for his mother's funeral and that he had been arrested and was unable to obtain a new visa to travel and needed to 'bribe officials' to get back into Australia.

Due to the catalogue of evidence put forward, all the accused pleaded guilty to the offences put to them. A boy, who was aged 16 at the time, was cautioned for conspiracy to commit fraud.

Detective Constable Chris O'Connor, from Ellesmere Port CID, who led the investigation, said: "This was a significant fraud against three vulnerable people.

"Through one man's deceit, greed, and determination to prey on the vulnerable in society to line his own pockets the financial and emotional consequences each victim has suffered has been catastrophic and life changing.

“The prison sentence given to McDonagh should serve as a warning to rogue traders that this type of crime will not be tolerated and that you will be severely punished if found to be carrying out this crime.

“People who allow their bank accounts to be used by others in order for fraud to be committed will also be targeted and as well as being arrested they face severe penalties including the inability to obtain a bank account in future.”

Hartford man handed five-year Criminal Behaviour Order

A man from Hartford has been banned from entering any licenced premises in Northwich for five years.

Craig Howman, of Stones Manor Lane, appeared at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Thursday 15 December after pleading guilty to sexually assaulting a woman in Northwich and resisting a police officer in the execution of duty.

The 31-year-old was jailed for 16 weeks and ordered to sign the sex offenders register for seven years.

Howman was also handed a five-year Criminal Behaviour Order, which bans him from entering any licensed pubs, restaurants, clubs, bars or café’s in the CW8 or CW9 postcode areas.

He is also banned from being drunk in any public place in CW8 or CW9, and banned from carrying any open containers of alcohol in any public place within the Northwich postcode areas.

The order also prevents Howman from causing harassment, alarm or distress to any members of the public. This includes swearing in public or to the public, including the Emergency Services. In addition, he is also ordered to engage in drug and alcohol rehabilitation.

During the hearing the court heard that Howman had been into contact with officers 15 times in the past year alone; with the majority of offences were related to alcohol.

Chief Inspector Darren Griffith, head of Northwich Local Policing Unit, said: *“Howman is as prolific offender and his behaviour over the past year has been totally unacceptable.*

“He often becomes abusive and disruptive towards innocent members of the public, causing unnecessary alarm and distress.

“There comes a point when you have to say enough is enough and take additional action to protect the community and businesses in the area.

“I hope that this order provides reassurance to local residents and helps to deter Howman’s criminal behaviour once he is released from prison.”

If Howman fails to comply with any of the conditions he could face a penalty of five years imprisonment.

Anyone who encounters Howman breaching any of the above restrictions is urged to contact Cheshire Police on 101, or at <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/soh/seen-or-heard/>, to report it.



Tribute issued following fatal house fire in Daresbury



The family of a woman who died following a house fire in Daresbury have paid tribute to her.

Rebecca Foster, 32, died on Tuesday 13 December following a fire at her home on Delph Lane, Daresbury, in the early hours of Monday 12 December.

Her fiancé, 33-year-old Kieran Naylor, remains in a critical condition at Whiston Hospital. Rebecca's family said: "Rebecca was a loving and caring daughter and our lives have been absolutely torn apart by her death.

"She and Kieran made the perfect couple, and the pair were planning to spend the rest of their lives together, but sadly they will never be able to fulfil their dreams.

"We would like to thank everyone who tried to help Rebecca and Kieran on the night of the fire for all their efforts and would ask that we are left to grieve in peace at this difficult time."

Investigations into the cause of the fire are still ongoing, but it is not believed to be suspicious



Family pay tribute to 19-year-old woman who died following collision on M6



The family of a 19-year-old woman who died following a collision on the M6 have paid tribute to her.

Chloe Williams, from Dudley, was a passenger of a Volkswagen Polo which was involved in a collision with three other vehicles.

The incident occurred at around 5.15pm on Friday 2 December on the M6 between junction 16 to junction 17 northbound at Sandbach.

Sadly, despite best efforts of those involved, Chloe passed away at the hospital. Her family are being supported by specialist officers.

Her family have paid the following tribute to her: *"We have lost our beautiful girl in the most tragic way.*

"She was about to start her dream career and has now had all that taken away. We ask as a family to be allowed to grieve in private."

A 27-year-old man from Rossendale was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving. He has since been bailed pending further enquiries.

Officers are continuing to appeal for anyone with information or dashcam footage from around the time of the collision to come forward.

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision is urged to contact Cheshire Police via [the Cheshire Police website](#) quoting IML 1426483 or call 101.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Renewed appeal for help in finding missing man from Northwich

Police are continuing to appeal for help in finding Russell Tomlinson who went missing in Northwich.

The 42-year-old, who was living in Northwich, has not been seen since Friday 18 November.

Russell was reported missing on Saturday 19 November after his family became increasingly concerned for his welfare as they were not able to get in touch with him.

Despite an investigation into his disappearance and an extensive appeal, Russell is still missing.

At the time he went missing, Russell was believed to be wearing jeans, trainers and a black puffer padded coat. He is described as 6'3" tall with blue eyes, of a slim build and with short dark hair which is receding at the front.

Enquires have established that Russell was last seen at around 11.30pm on Friday 18 November on London Road, Northwich, near to the Deaf centre, walking in the direction of Kingsmead.

Detective Sergeant James Elliott said: *"As Christmas approaches, we are continuing our appeal for help in finding Russell and are becoming increasingly concerned for his welfare.*

"Officers have been carrying out a number of enquiries since he was reported missing to us and we are determined to locate Russell as soon as possible.

"We are appealing to anyone who may have CCTV in and around the Leftwich, Kingsmead, Castle, and Hartford areas on Friday 18 November, along with dashcam and smart doorbell footage to assist us in finding Russell.

"I would urge anyone who thinks that they may have seen him since he went missing to please come forward.

"I would also appeal directly to Russell to please contact us to let us know that you are safe and well."

Anyone with any information in relation to the whereabouts of Russell is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website or call 101, quoting IML 1416611.

Alternatively, information can be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Appeal for information following burglary at convenience store in Chester

Detectives are appealing for witnesses to come forward after a large quantity of cash was stolen during a burglary at a convenience store in Chester.

At around 11.10pm on Saturday 17 December three men broke into the Co-op store at Westminster Park

Once inside the building the offenders stole a quantity of cash. They fled the scene in a car at around 11.20pm, travelling in the direction of Castle Croft Road.

Detective Sergeant Stuart Needham, of Chester CID, said:

“This was a serious incident, and we are committed to doing all that we can to trace the people responsible.

“The investigation is currently in its early stages and we are following a number of lines of enquiry, including CCTV and forensics.

“As part of the investigation we also want to hear from anyone who was in the area between 11pm and 11.30pm on Saturday 17 December and witnessed anything suspicious.

“The same goes for any motorists who drove past the store around the time of the incident and believes they may have captured the offenders on their dashcams.”

Anyone with any information in relation to the incident is asked to contact Cheshire Police at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, or call 101, quoting IML1437766.

Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, 0800 555 111.

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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In partnership with



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: www.cheshirenw.org