

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 08 January 2023

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Man charged with theft offences in Northwich and Winsford

Officers from Northwich have charged a man in connection with a series of thefts in the local area.

Tristan Matthews was arrested on Whitchurch Road, Chester, at around 8.30am on Wednesday 4 January 2023.

The 20-year-old, of no fixed abode, had since been charged with two counts of theft from a motor vehicle and three counts of attempted theft from a motor vehicle.

He has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Thursday 5 January.

The charges relate to incidents in Northwich and Winsford which took place on 22 December and 1 January 2023.

Man convicted following rape in Warrington

A man has pleaded guilty following the rape of a woman at her home in Warrington.

Petrus-Ionut Apostoae, of Gorsey Lane, Warrington, appeared at Liverpool Crown Court today, Wednesday 4 January, and pleaded guilty to two counts of rape, one count of burglary, three counts of attempted burglary and one count of attempting to trespass with intent to commit a sexual offence.

The 25-year-old will now be remanded into custody to next appear at Liverpool Crown Court for sentencing on Friday 27 January.

The two counts of rape and one count of burglary relate to an incident which took place at 5am on Sunday 2 October when Apostoae entered an address on Orford Lane.

He first stole a number of items which he left outside the address. He then went back into the property and raped the victim as she slept.

Detective Inspector Nigel Parr, who led the investigation at Cheshire Constabulary's Major Investigation Team, said *"Apostoe is a dangerous and predatory criminal who subjected his victim to a truly horrific ordeal."*

"He invaded the victim's home, a place where everyone should feel safe, and committed a heinous sexual assault."

"Thankfully, as a result of the investigation and the amount of evidence gathered, Apostoe had no other option but to plead guilty meaning that the victim has been spared the trauma of having to relive what happened on that night."

"I would like to thank the victim for the strength and bravery she has shown throughout the investigation and hope that this will, in some way, help her rebuild her life."

If you have been a victim of sexual abuse, or know of someone who has, please contact Cheshire Police on 101, [via the website](#) or Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111.



Man arrested following fail to stop collision in Wharton

Officers investigating a fail to stop collision in Wharton have arrested a man.

Just before 6.40pm on Tuesday 3 January officers received a report of a collision involving a Yamaha motorbike and a pedestrian at the Wharton Hill Roundabout.

It is believed that the collision occurred at around 5pm that day.

The pedestrian, an 11-year-old boy was taken to hospital for further checks to minor injuries.

Today (Wednesday 4 January), officers arrested a 25-year-old man from Winsford on suspicion of dangerous driving and for failing to stop.

He remains in custody assisting police with their enquiries.

Officers are aware of posts on social media regarding the incident and would ask anyone who has information to please refrain from posting online and instead report this to police via [the Cheshire Police website](#) quoting IML 1448537.

Fly-tipper ordered to pay thousands after being caught in the act

A 34-year-old man from Wythenshawe has admitted criminal damage and fly-tipping following an investigation by Cheshire Constabulary's Rural Crime Team.

Craig McCullough from Nettlebarn Road, Wythenshawe appeared at Crewe Magistrates on 30 December 2022.

He admitted to criminal damage, causing the deposit of controlled waste on land without a permit and being the unregistered carrier of controlled waste in the course of business for profit.

He was fined £576, ordered to pay £4520 compensation, and pay £120 court costs, along with a £50 victim surcharge.

The charges related to McCollough, who advertised himself on social media as a man with a van collecting waste, picking up waste from an address in Macclesfield and dumping it in a farmer's field in Ashley on 16 May 2022.

He had been paid to dispose of the waste correctly. CCTV subsequently captured a van at the scene and officers began an investigation to identify the driver and connect them to the fly-tipping.

Officers discovered the van was registered to McCullough, but despite best efforts he evaded them until he was eventually caught by Border Force officers as he attempted to board a plane.

PC Jim Clark said:

"Instead of disposing of the waste correctly and despite having no relevant licence, he took the waste off the unsuspecting resident. He reversed onto a farmer's field, repeatedly smashing the gates to gain access causing thousands of pounds of damage, before dumping the waste."

"We gathered our evidence and brought him before the courts to ensure justice was done. I hope this goes to show that we do take rural crime seriously and that this sends a message to fly-tippers that this is not a crime you can get away with here in Cheshire."

PC Clark added:

“Anyone who is looking to get rid of waste should always be wary and make sure that the person offering to take your waste has the relevant licence - otherwise the trail could come back to you, and you could end up being held responsible and face a fine.”

Merseyside man charged with drugs offences following police stop check near Northwich

A 34-year-old man from Merseyside has been charged with drugs offences following a police stop check near Northwich.

Lewis Roberts, of Norwyn Road, Liverpool, was arrested at around 3.30pm on Tuesday 4 January after officers stopped a blue BMW 318 on the A556 in Lostock.

Roberts, who was a passenger in the car, has since been charged with two counts of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs (heroin and cocaine).

He has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court later today, Wednesday 4 January.

Two other people, a 35-year-old man and a 39-year-old woman, both from Winsford, were also arrested on suspicion of drugs offences following the stop.

The pair have since been released under investigation pending further enquiries.

Tribute issued following fatal collision in Ellesmere Port

The family of a 55-year-old man who died following a collision in Ellesmere Port have paid tribute to him.

Sean Coffey died on Saturday 31 December 2022 following a collision on the A41, Chester Road in Little Sutton.

Sean's family said:

“In the most tragic way, we have lost our beautiful Sean.

“Everyone that knew him will know him as a funny, kind and generous man. He loved music, wildlife and was devoted dad and family man. Sadly, he has been taken from us before his time.

“We ask, as a family, to be allowed to grieve in private.

"We urge anyone with any information contact Cheshire Police by calling 101 and quoting IML1446529 or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us>."



Billy Moore's family pay tribute to 'gentle giant with a kind soul'

The family of a man murdered in Bewsey and Whitecross have paid tribute to him



Billy's family said:

"Billy was a loving Son, Brother and friend. All who knew him would say that he was a gentle giant with a kind soul. We are devastated that he has been taken from us so young and in such a senseless way.

"Losing a loved one at any time is difficult but so suddenly and during Christmas has been unbearable. We would like to offer our extended thanks to all the emergency services that attended the scene and tried to help Billy as well as the officers who have been working tirelessly over Christmas to bring those accountable to justice.

"Billy, we will love you until the next life."

James Ireland, 41 of Lodge Lane, Bewsey and Whitecross, has been charged with murder and appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on 26 December. He will next appear at Liverpool Crown Court on 23 January.

A 44-year-old woman who was also arrested has since been released without charge.

Man jailed after defrauding woman out of more than £21,000

A former Northwich resident who defrauded a woman out of more than £21,000 has been jailed.

Moisa Constantin-Florin appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 22 December where he was sentenced to 15 months in prison.

The 24-year-old, of Central Park Road, East Ham, London, previously pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit fraud and possession of criminal property.

The case began on 28 June 2021 when a woman in Edinburgh received a call from a man claiming to work for Santander bank.

The man told the woman that there had been fraudulent activity on her account and as a result she needed to move all her money to a new account.

Convinced by the man the woman transferred £21,996.38 into the new account.

However, after becoming suspicious, the woman decided to contact Santander directly and discovered that the call was not genuine, and all the money had gone from her account.

A subsequent investigation by Santander revealed that the money had been transferred into Florin's account and Santander were quickly able to recover £16,996.38 of the stolen cash.

However, £5,000 had already been moved to other accounts and couldn't be retrieved.

The investigation was subsequently transferred to Cheshire Constabulary as Florin was residing in the Northwich area when he committed the offence.

Officers from Northwich Proactive Team attempted to locate him but it was found that he had already fled the country.

Florin was circulated as wanted and was arrested by police in London on 22 August 2022 after stop checked a car on Barking Road.

During a search of the vehicle officers seized £4,135 cash, along with a number of mobile phones, sim cards and notepads which contained various bank account details.

Florin was subsequently charged with conspiracy to commit fraud and possession of criminal property.

Following the sentencing Detective Constable Claire Heatley, of Northwich Proactive Team, said:

“Florin was extremely convincing when he contacted the victim and persuaded her to transfer all of the money, but thanks to her suspicions she quickly reported the incident to Santander and they agreed to reimburse the victim for all the money she had lost, meaning that she is not out of pocket.

“Sadly this is not always the case, and in the age of digital and telephone banking it’s essential that we all take extra care.

“You should never share your passwords or bank details, and if you get a phone call from someone claiming to work for your bank and something doesn’t sound right just put the phone down and ring your bank directly, or alternatively visit your local bank.”

For more advice and information about how to avoid becoming a victim of fraud visit www.actionfraud.police.uk



Latest Cheshire Appeals

Police appeal for witnesses following Runcorn pub disturbance

Police are appealing for witnesses following a disturbance at a pub in Runcorn.

At around 12.17am on 27 December 2022, a fight broke out at The Alchemy in High Street.

Up to four people were seriously injured. All are recovering at home.

Police are appealing for anyone with information to speak to police.

DC Paul Cullen said:

“There were a number of people in the pub at the time who will have witnessed the fight but have yet to come forward. I would urge anyone with information about this incident, but has not yet spoken to police, to contact us.”

Two men aged 47 and 38 were arrested as part of enquiries into the incident and have since been released on conditional bail. Another man aged 35 was arrested but later released without charge.

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the [website](#) quoting IML 1443659.

Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for witnesses and dashcam footage following burglary at supermarket in Helsby

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a burglary at a supermarket in Helsby.

At approximately 9.30pm on Sunday 1 January 2023, three men gained entry into the service yard area of the Chester Road store after cutting a large hole in a rear fence.

The men then forced entry into the store via the rear door before attempting to raid the tobacco counter.

However, unbeknown to the thieves, the counter had been emptied, so the trio fled the store with a small quantity of cash from the till.

The men fled the store via the rear entrance at around 9.40pm and exited the site via the hole in the fence.

Enquiries in relation to the burglary are ongoing and officers are keen to hear from anyone with any information in relation to the incident.

<https://youtu.be/kqyqnyFFCMc>

Detective Constable Richard Connelley, of Chester Proactive Team, said:

“This investigation is in its early stages and we’re following a number of lines of enquiry, including CCTV and forensics.

“We know that the men entered the site on foot via the service yard, however it is like that the trio arrived in the area in vehicle which they left in the nearby area.

“Therefore, as part of the investigation I’m keen to hear from anyone who was in the area at the time of the incident and believes they may have witnessed anything suspicious.

“I’m also urging residents in the nearby areas, including Chester Road, Callender Gardens and Longster Close, to check their CCTV and ring doorbells, to see if they have any footage of the men.

“The same goes for anyone with any dashcam footage.

“I urge anyone with any information, no matter how small, to call the team here at Chester on 101, quoting IML 1447377.”

Information can also be reported online at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us or anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Detectives issue CCTV images following assault in Warrington



Detectives investigating an assault in Warrington have issued CCTV images of a man that they would like to speak to.

At around 4.30pm on 24 August 2022, a 42-year-old local man has been in an alleyway near to Lovely Lane and a disturbance broke out with a group of men.

One of the men has then punched the victim, causing him to fall to the ground.

As a result of the assault, the victim sustained serious injuries.

Officers are now appealing to anyone who may recognise the man in the CCTV to come forward.

Detective Constable David Wynne said: *"This assault left the man with a serious leg injury and as a result, needed to have surgery."*

"I understand that a lot of time has passed since this assault took place, however, we have been following a number of enquiries to locate those responsible."

"And it is as part of our enquiries that we are now looking to speak to the man pictured in the CCTV image as we believe he will be able to assist us with our investigation."

"I would urge the man, or anyone who knows who the man is, to come forward so that we can speak to him."

"I am also appealing to anyone who may have information about the assault that they believe could help us in getting justice for the victim to please come forward."

Anyone with information is urged to report it to Cheshire Police via [the Cheshire Police website](#) quoting IML 1350686 or call 101.

Appeal for information following fatal collision in Ellesmere Port

Police are appealing for witnesses and dashcam footage following a fatal collision in Ellesmere Port.

At around 6.20pm on Saturday 31 December 2022, officers were called to reports of a collision on the A41, Chester Road in Little Sutton.

Officers attended the scene and found that a pedestrian has been involved in a collision with two cars, a black BMW X5 and a grey Land Rover Discovery. All parties involved stopped at the scene and are assisting the police with their enquiries.

The incident occurred in the road near to the junction of Smithy Lane.

The pedestrian, a 55-year-old local man, sustained serious injuries and was treated at the scene by paramedics.

Sadly, despite the efforts of all those involved, he died as a result of the incident. His next of kin have been informed and they are being supported by specialist officers.

Enquiries in relation to the collision are ongoing and officers are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the collision or may have dashcam footage of the incident to come forward.

Anyone with any information is urged to call 101 quoting IML1446529 or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us>

Alternatively, anyone with information can report to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>

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