

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 29th January 2023

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Police in Halton urge irresponsible dog owners to adhere to law

Police in Widnes and Runcorn are warning irresponsible dog owners to adhere to the law or face a potential criminal conviction.

In Halton, over the past six months, there have been 76 incidents involving dogs concerning the public. Of these, 15 were actual dog bites where people were injured.

There were also 10 dog on dog attacks reported to police, and the rest of the calls related to scared residents and those concerned about mistreatment.

While some incidents can be accidental, the potential for behavioural problems in dogs increases if they haven't been trained or have been mistreated or neglected.

Owners of illegal breeds under UK law in particular can expect to be prosecuted and convicted under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

Sgt Phil Berry, said:

"While most dog owners are responsible and care for their pets, often seeing them as cherished members of the family, there are some who aren't. That may be why we're seeing an increase in dogs being out of control and harming people and other dogs."

"Dogs are not an accessory or a status symbol to show how 'hard' you are. They are animals that need to be treated with care. Socialisation and training is important to make sure they are balanced and happy individuals."

Due to the emerging issue of out of control dogs in the community, police in Halton are reminding residents that it is a criminal offence under the Dangerous Dog Act 1991 to allow a dog to be 'dangerously out of control' either in a public place or on in the home.

A 'dangerously out of control' dog can be defined as a dog that has injured someone, or a dog that a person has grounds to reasonably believe that it may injure somebody.

Something as simple as a dog chasing, barking at or jumping up at a person or child could result in an investigation, so it is important to ensure the owner's dog is always under control.

If a dog injures somebody, it may be seized and if convicted the owner could face a lengthy prison sentence or a fine, or both. The dog could also be euthanised.

Under the same law it is also a criminal offence if your dog attacks an assistance dog.

Sgt Berry said:

"If a dog you own has behaviour that concerns you or you need advice on training, there are plenty of dog trainers, and charities such as the RSPCA, to support you and your dog.

"And if you believe an animal is being mistreated, you can contact the RSPCA via their website to report your concerns."

Three youths arrested following series of incidents in Northwich town centre

Officers investigating a spate of burglaries, anti-social behaviour and harassment in Northwich have arrested three youths in connection with the incidents.

The two boys, aged 12 and 13, along with a 16-year-old girl were all arrested on Thursday 26 January in relation to a number of incidents in the town over the past month.

These include three burglaries at two separate businesses in the town centre, one where items were stolen from the staff area at the local cinema and two where high value items were stolen from a shop.

The criminal damage allegations include damage to lights outside a local estate agents and damage to a Christmas grotto.

All three youths have been released on strict bail conditions – including restrictions which prevent them from entering the town centre without an appropriate adult.

They are also banned from associating with each other while the investigation continues.

They are set to report back to police on Thursday 9 March and officers will be monitoring the youths closely to ensure they adhere to the restrictions.

Sergeant Ste Bradshaw, of Northwich Local Policing Unit, said:

“I understand that anti-social behaviour in the town centre is a cause for concern to local residents and businesses, and I hope that these arrests provide reassurance.

“We have a dedicated team of officers who police the town centre and they’re committed to doing all they can to make Northwich a safer place to live, work and visit. However, to achieve this we need support from the local community – including parents.

“I would encourage parents to know the whereabouts of their children and for the community to keep reporting anti-social behaviour or any suspicious activity.

“I’d urge anyone with any information or concerns in relation to anti-social behaviour in Northwich to contact us at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us or call 101.”

Cheshire Constabulary and The Hollie Gazzard Trust working together to keep people safe across Cheshire

Cheshire Constabulary has teamed up with The Hollie Gazzard Trust to provide people across the county with an enhanced level of protection – in a bid to make Cheshire’s streets even safer.

The partnership sees the Constabulary encouraging members of the public to download a next generation safety app called Hollie Guard, which turns your smartphone into an advanced personal safety device.

And in a further drive to help protect Cheshire’s women and girls from violence, funding has been allocated for the enhanced version, Hollie Guard Extra, so that thousands of people across the county that police and partners identify as potentially vulnerable are given access to a professional, police-approved monitoring team (via a control centre) who respond if they are in danger.

The investment forms part of the wider Safer Streets initiative where the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, John Dwyer, secured £1.5 million of funding from the Home Office to roll out several innovative projects across Cheshire - including the partnership with The Hollie Gazzard Trust - to help keep people safe.

The Trust was set up by the parents and sister of Hollie Gazzard who was murdered by an ex-partner in 2014 at her place of work in Gloucester.

Following her horrific murder, the family set up the Trust not only to help other victims but to raise funds to support young people - and the app was designed to protect both women and men from possible danger.

A simple shake of a phone will generate an alert with the location, audio and video evidence of the incident automatically sent to an emergency contact via text and email.

Shake it again and it sends out a high-pitched alarm and the flash starts to strobe - in order to attract maximum attention.

From the moment Hollie Guard is activated, the location is tracked and can be viewed in real time by the emergency contact. Evidence is not stored on the smartphone but on secure servers so that it can be used in the future as evidence.

The enhanced level Hollie Guard Extra - a 'paid for' version of the app - gives the user access to a 24/7 professional, police-approved monitoring team (via a control centre) who respond if the emergency contact is unable to.

Every five seconds the location will be updated based on the user's speed and movement to identify where they are once an alert has been raised.

If an alert is raised, the audio and video evidence is shared with a professional response centre who will assess the situation and respond accordingly.

The Constabulary is investing in 2,800 voucher codes for Hollie Guard Extra and these codes will be given out to people who police and partners identify as being most in need of extra protection. Once redeemed, they will have a 12-month subscription to the enhanced service for free.

Hollie Guard is funded through the Hollie Gazzard Trust, which means any money made through upgrading to Hollie Guard Extra goes directly to the Trust and not only helps to protect the person who is using it - but it also helps to fight the important issue of violence against women and girls.

Superintendent Claire Jesson, Force lead for Safer Streets, said: "We remain determined to make Cheshire an even safer - where people can go about their lives free of harassment, stalking, domestic abuse, sexual assault and violence and we will continue working hard with our partners to deliver ground-breaking solutions - like Hollie Guard - into our communities to help make Cheshire's streets even safer.

"I strongly encourage everyone to download Hollie Guard as soon as you can. Give yourself peace of mind that you have such an innovative tool - quite literally in your pockets - to help you feel more confident when out, safe in the knowledge that you have the app as added protection if you do unfortunately find yourself in danger.

"We are setting the standard that violence against women and girls is not accepted in Cheshire and is a matter that police and partners take very seriously, and I want to reassure the public that we will work tirelessly to take action against anyone who's behaviour falls short of acceptable."

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, John Dwyer, said: "Using the latest technology is one of the tools in our arsenal to help people feel safe, especially when they're out and about.

“I’m extremely pleased that some of the funding that was secured from the Home Office for Safer Streets is being used to help the most vulnerable and at-risk in our communities through Hollie Guard. Nobody should be afraid on our streets.

“In my Police and Crime Plan, I make it clear that violence against women and girls won’t be tolerated. Work such as this helps to show them, and all our communities, that in Cheshire’s we’re serious about tackling these issues.”

Nick Gazzard, founder of The Hollie Gazzard Trust, said: “We’re delighted to be in partnership with Cheshire Police and their roll out of Hollie Guard. We know Hollie Guard is an effective tool and can help individuals stay safe. With International Women’s day approaching, it’s really important to highlight the safety concerns women and girls are facing and how Hollie Guard can help.”

To find out more about Hollie Guard, or to download the app visit: [Hollie Guard – Personal Safety App](#)

To find out more about Cheshire Constabulary’s Safer Streets initiative visit: [Safer Streets | Cheshire Constabulary](#)

Man charged in connection with vehicle interference offence in Macclesfield

Officers from Macclesfield South Beat Team have charged a man in connection with a vehicle interference offence.

Stuart Preston, 40, of Mill Lane, was arrested and subsequently charged with attempt theft from a motor vehicle.

He has been bailed to appear at Crewe Magistrates’ Court on 13 February.

The charges follow an incident of vehicle interference on Sunday 22 January on Crompton Road.

Cheshire Constabulary sees lowest rise in crime across England and Wales

Figures released on 26 January 2023 by the Office of National Statistics show that Cheshire saw the lowest increase in crime across England and Wales between October 2021 and September 2022.

Cheshire Constabulary has seen an increase of 1.4 per cent in overall crime recorded during this period, well below the national increase of 12.4 per cent.

Offences linked to theft from the person (40 per cent), and possession of an offensive weapon (44 per cent) accounting for some of the largest increases.

The statistics show the force has seen smaller increases in reports of sexual offences (13 per cent) and violence with injury offences (10 per cent)

However, other offences such as stalking and harassment decreased by 6.1 per cent.

There were also notable decreases in other areas such as drugs trafficking (-48.5 per cent), burglary (-2.4 per cent) with residential burglary decreasing by 5.2 per cent, and robbery (-3 per cent).

Deputy Chief Constable Chris Armitt said:

“It’s clear that any increase in reported crime is not ok, but we must look comparatively at the data that shows Cheshire is well below national average.

“As part of our continued our effort to crackdown on offenders coming into Cheshire, we are working closely with our neighbouring forces to catch those responsible and make Cheshire an even more hostile environment for criminals.

“We are already seeing positive results from this approach, with a significant decrease in the number of drugs of drugs and drug trafficking offences, as well as a fall in the number of residential burglaries across the county.

“However, we will continue to do more and our commitment in preventing crime, catching criminals and educating our communities in crime prevention remains our uppermost priority.

“I understand that the rise in possession of offensive weapons may cause concern, however, this is in part due to our diligent use stop and search, and information from the public, which has resulted in an increasing number of weapons being removed from our streets.

“Violence against women and girls also remains a priority for the force, and while we have seen a small rise, we hope that our continued support and investment in a range of innovative technology to enhance the services that we provide is going some way to making our communities safer for women.

“An example of this is how we are the first force in the North West to roll out the GoodSAM Instant Help platform which allows anyone who calls 999 to live stream from their phone to call operators in our Force Control Centre. This intuitive kit will help us to support all victims by enabling police to capture real-time evidence which can be used in court.

“The force has also recently launched the new online reporting form for victims of rape, sexual assault and harassment.

“This is also supported by the mobile digital forensic unit which will enable officers to extract data from digital devices – along with data extraction kiosks at each Local Policing Unit.”

DCC Armitt concluded:

“The message is clear - we will do everything possible to make Cheshire a hostile place for criminals and I want the public to know that we will do all we can to bring perpetrators to justice, continuing with our commitment to keep the residents of Cheshire safe.”

If you are a victim of crime you can report it via the Cheshire Constabulary website. In an emergency dial 999.

Man found guilty of death by dangerous driving following hit-and-run collision in Crewe

A man who left a mother of three to die following a collision in Crewe has been found guilty of causing her death by dangerous driving.

Nathan Schultz was found guilty of the charge following a four-day trial at Chester Crown Court.

The 22-year-old had previously pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, failing to provide a specimen, driving without insurance, driving without a licence, two counts of failing to stop following a collision and two counts of failing to report a collision.

He also admitted causing the death of Agnieszka Poczowska whilst unlicensed and causing the death of Agnieszka Poczowska whilst uninsured.

Schultz, of Ellgrave Street, Burslam, has been remanded in custody and is set to be sentenced on Friday 3 March.

During the trial the court heard how on Monday 14 September 2020, Schulz was driving a silver Ford Focus which was involved in two collisions with cyclists.

The first incident occurred at 6.55am when he collided with Agnieszka Poczowska’s bicycle on Hungerford Road.

Schultz failed to stop and drove off towards the M6.

Just minutes later, he was involved in a second collision, knocking a cyclist off his bike on Crewe Road, Haslington.

Once again, he failed to stop at the scene.

Thankfully, the rider from the second collision, a 53-year-old local man, escaped with just minor injuries.

However, 41-year-old Agnieszka, sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced dead a short time after the collision.

A manhunt was launched to trace the people responsible and following enquiries officers located the vehicle involved, a silver Ford Focus, abandoned on a road in Trent Vale.

The car had extensive damage to front windscreen along with three defective tyres.

Schultz was quickly identified as a suspect and arrested later that day. He was subsequently charged in connection with the incident.

A second man, Kasey Wrench, was identified as a passenger in the car, was also arrested in connection with the incident.

The 21-year-old, of Epping Road, Trent Vale, later pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, driving without a licence and driving without insurance.

He was dealt with earlier and sentenced to 12 months in prison, suspended for 24 months and 200 hours unpaid work

He was also ordered to pay £300 costs, £136 victim surcharge, disqualified from driving for three years and to take an extended driving test.

Following today's conviction, PC Robin Fisher, of the Serious and Complex Collision investigation unit, said:

"Agnieszka was a loving wife and a devoted mum to her three children.

"She left home that morning and was cycling home to work, but as a result of the actions taken by Schultz and Wrench she never arrived.

"The pair are both responsible for her death, Schultz was driving the car that hit her and Wrench was sat in the passenger seat.

"They were both aware that they had hit Agnieszka, but rather than stop at the scene to help her, they purposefully chose to drive off and left her to die at the side of the road.

“Even after the second collision, they continued and thought that they could evade justice. But thankfully, after a complex and detailed investigation, we were able to locate and bring both men to justice for their actions that day.”

Following their arrest, Wrench admitted his involvement, but Schultz refused to answer any questions and pretended to be asleep when asked to provide a breath sample.

Inspector Helen Cooper added:

“It has taken more than two-years to get to this point, but I hope that the guilty verdict reached today will provide Agnieszka’s family with some form of closure.

“The pain and suffering that they have endured is unimaginable and our thoughts are with them at this time.

“This has been one of the most difficult cases that I have ever dealt with in my whole career at Cheshire Constabulary and I would like to thank all of the officers who have been involved in this case and who have all played a role in helping to finally achieve justice for Agnieszka’s family.”



Man charged in connection with aggravated burglary in Crewe

Detectives investigating an aggravated burglary in Crewe have charged a man in connection with the incident.

Riley Gaffney, of Ursuline Way, Crewe, was arrested on Thursday 19 January and subsequently charged with one count of aggravated burglary with intent, one count of possession of a class B drug (cannabis), and one count of possession of an offensive weapon in a private place.

The 18-year-old was remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 20 February.

The charges follow an aggravated burglary which took place on Sunday 15 January at an address on Hawthorn Grove, Crewe.

Officers granted closure order for Macclesfield property



Officers have been granted a closure order for a property in Macclesfield that caused misery to local residents.

Numerous reports have been made to officers regarding anti-social behaviour (ASB) and drug related activity at the property on Sunnybank Close.

These reports have included issues with anti-social behaviour, drug dealing, loud music and threatening behaviour at the property.

After gathering a catalogue of evidence, officers from Macclesfield South Beat Team attended Crewe Magistrates' Court on 25 January where they were granted a three month closure order.

The occupant of the address, a 55-year-old man has been ordered to leave the property and find alternative accommodation.

All windows and doors will now be boarded up for a period of three months.

Anyone who enters the address during that time is committing an offence and can be arrested.

<https://youtu.be/efgSHCBOOyU>

Sergeant Matt Bassirat said: *“It is hugely important for residents to feel safe in their own homes and now thanks to this closure order, the community will be able to breathe a welcomed sigh of relief.*

“This action, which coincides with Neighbourhood Week of Action, shows that we do act on the information provided to us by the public and will use all the powers available to us to root out any unacceptable behaviour in our communities.

“Our Beat Team are committed to doing everything possible to take action against those intent on causing misery and harm to residents and this is just a small snapshot of some of the work we do day in and out to keep the public safe.

“I would urge anyone who has concerns about ASB in their community to please report it to us and we will do the rest.”

Anyone with concerns about ASB in their area is asked to report it to Cheshire Police via [the Cheshire Police website](#) or call 101.

Macclesfield residents are asked to complete a Residents’ Voice survey about issues in their community, you can do so by visiting [the Cheshire Police website](#).

Warrington man jailed for 18 years for sexually assaulting a child

A man from Warrington has jailed after he was convicted of multiple counts of rape involving a child.

Christopher McConnell was found guilty of four counts rape of a child following an eight day trial at Liverpool Crown Court.

The 36-year-old, formerly from Warrington, and now of Prestbury Drive, Bredbury, Stockport, returned to court on Thursday 26 January where he was sentenced to 18 years in prison

The case against McConnell began in September 2021 when Cheshire Constabulary received reports that he had raped and assaulted a young child.

The caller reported that the offences took place over a four-year period and involved a child under the age of 13.

Officers from Cheshire Constabulary built up a case file of evidence against McConnell and he was charged in connection with the allegations.

Following the sentencing, Detective Constable Irene Cadman, who led the investigation said:

“McConnell’s conviction is testament to the courage and bravery shown by the victim and their family throughout this investigation.

“McConnell is a violent and manipulative bully, who subjected his victim to a prolonged period of sexual abuse and violence.

“He repeatedly threatened his victim and placed a pillow over their face if they became upset while he was raping them.

“Even when faced with all the evidence against him, he refused to admit his guilt. Instead, he chose to make the victim’s family sit through the hearing and listen to the horrific offences that he committed.

“Thankfully, as a result of the statements provided by the victim, and the evidence we gathered the jury have seen through his lies and he is now being held accountable for his actions.”



Detective Inspector Andrew Wallace, of the Northern Public Protection Team, added:

“This has been a complex investigation and I would like to commend DC Cadman for her dedication and commitment throughout the case.

“No-one should have to experience what this victim has been through and if anything can be achieved from this case, I hope that it encourages other victims to come forward.

“Cheshire Constabulary takes any allegation of sexual offences extremely seriously, and any allegation will be thoroughly investigated, with the wishes and needs of the victim as our main priority.”

To report any sexual offence, call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/rsa/alpha-v1/v1/rape-sexual-assault-other-sexual-offences/%20> .

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

Oldham man jailed following Northwich burglary

A man from Oldham who travelled to Cheshire and broke into a restaurant in Northwich has been jailed.

Martin Craddock appeared at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Thursday 26 January where he pleaded guilty to one count of burglary other than a dwelling.

The 49-year-old, of Godson Street, Oldham, was sentenced to 40 weeks in prison and ordered to pay £500 compensation.

The court heard how Craddock stole a quantity of wine during a burglary at Jathra restaurant on Manchester Road, in the early hours of Monday 10 October 2021.

He was identified as a suspect following a DNA hit from blood found at the scene, along with telecoms data which placed him at the scene of the crime.

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

“I welcome the swift conclusion of this case and I hope that it provides reassurance to local businesses and residents.

“Craddock came to Cheshire that night thinking that it was an easy target, but as this result demonstrates this is not the case.

“We are committed to doing all we can to make Cheshire a hostile environment for criminals and will do everything we can to identify those responsible for crime in our county and ensure they are held accountable for their actions.”



Man charged with burglary in Chester city centre

Officers from Chester Proactive Team have charged a man following a burglary in the city.

Alan Doyle, 33, of Manor House Drive, Coventry was arrested and subsequently charged with burglary and fraud by false representation.

He was remanded in custody and appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court today (25 January) where he was granted conditional bail to appear at Chester Crown Court on 22 February.

The charges relate to a burglary at a property on Grosvenor Street, Chester on Monday 23 January.

Two men charged following incident in Alsager

Officers have charged two men following reports of an incident at an address on Alsager.

At around 11am on Tuesday 24 January police were called to reports two men attempting to gain entry to an address on Lawton Road.

Officers attended the scene and arrested two men.

Christopher Jones, 30, of no fixed abode, Alsager, and William Price, 37, of Elm Grove, Alsager, have since been charged with use of violence to secure entry to a premises.

The pair have been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court today, Wednesday 25 January.

Man charged in connection with drug offences in Blacon

Detectives from Chester's Proactive Team have charged a man with drug offences in Blacon.

Alfie Edge, 18, of Treborth Road, Chester was arrested and subsequently charged with possession with intent to supply class A drugs (crack cocaine).

He has been remanded into custody to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court today (Wednesday 25 January).

The charges relate to an incident on 24 January at around 1.20pm on Blacon Point Road.

Man charged in connection with Congleton sexual assault

Detectives from Congleton CID have charged a man following reports of a sexual assault in the town.

Raheem Rahman was arrested on Monday 23 January following reports that a 15-year-old girl had been sexually assaulted.

The 22-year-old of Andrew Mulligan Close, Tunstall, has since been charged with two counts of rape and one count of grooming.

Rahman has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court later today, Wednesday 25 January.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for information and video footage incident in Hoole

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following an incident on Hoole, Chester.

At around 11.15pm on Wednesday 25 January police were called to reports of a disturbance at an address on Chestnut Close.

On arrival at the scene officers found there had been an altercation involving three men and a woman.

A 42-year-old man was injured during the incident, and he was taken to hospital; his injuries are not believed to be serious.

Two men aged 42 and 21, along with a 22-year-old woman have since been arrested in relation to the incident and are currently being held in police custody.

Detective Sergeant Justin Jones, of Chester CID, said:

“Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and we are doing all we can to establish what took place.

“From our initial investigation, we believe that the people involved in this incident had been walking on Hoole Road prior to the altercation.

“Therefore, as part of our investigation we’re asking residents on Hoole Lane to check their CCTV and Ring doorbell footage between 10.30pm and 11.15pm to see if they have any footage which may aid our investigation.

“The same goes for anyone with any dashcam footage who was passing through the area.

“I’d ask anyone with any information, no matter how small, to contact the team here at Chester CID on 101 quoting IML 1464559.”

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

Detectives continuing to investigate sexual assault in Crewe appeal for witness to come forward



Detectives continuing to investigate a sexual assault in Crewe have released a further CCTV image of a witness they would like to speak to.

At around 1.50am on 2 October, a woman, aged in her 30s, was walking along Market Street when she was approached by a man.

He spoke to the woman and walked along Delamere Street with her before pushing and assaulting her.

The victim managed to fight off the man and scratched his face before calling police.

She did not sustain any injuries.

Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives have now issued an image of a man who they believe may have witnessed the assault.

Detective Constable Jayne Lloyd said: *"We have been working on information following our previous appeals for assistance in relation to this case and have now identified a man who we believe will be able to help us."*

"I want to stress that this man is not suspected of any wrongdoing but we really want to speak to him as we think he could have vital information to assist our investigation."

"I would also just once again like to appeal to the community and ask them to cast their minds back and think if they believe they may have seen something that didn't look quite right, if this is the case, please get in touch.

"The same goes to anyone who may believe that they have information that we may not be aware of."

Anyone with information is urged to contact Cheshire Police via [the Cheshire Police website](#) quoting IML 1379368 or call 101.

Information can also be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously via 0800 555 111 or visit [the Crimestoppers website](#).

Detectives have arrested two men following reports of a bogus taxi operating in Chester

Detectives have arrested two men following two reports of a bogus taxi operating in Chester City Centre.

At around 5am on Sunday 15 January, a 19-year-old woman was walking through City Road, Chester, when she was approached by a silver car, which she believed to be a taxi.

The woman got into the vehicle and asked the driver, a man, to be dropped off at a nearby hotel.

Instead, the woman was taken to an unknown property on Queens Road, Chester, and was asked by the driver whether she wanted to go inside.

The woman then exited the vehicle and made her way to the hotel by herself.

On Sunday 22 January at around 4.27am, two women, aged 21 and 23-years old, approached what they believed to be a taxi, a silver car, on Northgate Street, Chester.

The driver told the women that he was a taxi driver and the women asked to be taken to Winsford.

When they arrived at their destination, the women asked to pay for the journey via bank card but were unable to as the driver had no card machine – the driver then became irritated and drove the women back to Chester City Centre and left them there.

Two men, aged 21 and 22, were arrested in relation to the incidents on Sunday 22 January; they have both been released on bail pending further enquiries.

Detective Constable of Andrew Manson said: *“Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and we are committed to doing all that we can to establish the full circumstances of these incidents.*

“As part of the investigation I’m keen to hear from anyone who may witnessed anything suspicious or believes that they may have been a victim.”

DC Manson added: *“I’d also like to take this as an opportunity to remind members of the public to remain vigilant and always book your taxi through a licensed and vetted taxi service.*

“Rogue taxi drivers can be spotted by checking whether they have any official taxi plates or any official signage/identification that confirms their licensing and taxi firm.”

Anyone with any information in relation to the incident is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, quoting IML 1461664. Information and dashcam footage can also be submitted online [via the website](#).

Appeal for information following robbery in Padgate

Detectives are appealing for information from the public following a robbery in Padgate.

At around 1.25am on Saturday 14 January, a 23-year-old man was cycling along Insall Road to meet his partner.

As he approached Padgate Library he noticed a man and a woman who appeared to be arguing.

The cyclist continued to ride along Insall Road and as he got near to the couple, the man suddenly jumped out in front and grabbed hold of the bike.

The pair then became involved in an altercation, during which the cyclist was punched to the back of his head.

While the pair were arguing the cyclist’s partner also arrived at the scene, she was also hit to the face during the altercation.

The man then stole the bicycle and rode off in the direction of Crab Lane/ Birchwood Road.

The woman also ran off from the scene.

The suspect was a white man, around 5’ 10” tall, in his late 30’s, with mousey brown hair, short on sides, and longer on top.

He was described as having a wrinkly face and stubbly brown/ grey facial hair. The man had a local accent and was wearing a black tracksuit.

Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are appealing for anyone with any information to come forward.

Detective Constable Ian Prashar, of Warrington CID said:

“Enquiries in relation to this incident are ongoing and we are doing all we can to establish what has taken place.

“As part of our investigation we are keen to hear from anyone who was in the area and may have witnessed the incident.

“The same goes for anyone with anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage.

“We’re also keen to hear from anyone who has any information in relation to the whereabouts of the stolen bike – a distinctive matt black GT Avalanche Mountain bike, with luminous green text.”

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 IML 1455944.

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

Police release CCTV following theft from vehicles in Widnes

Police have released CCTV images of four men they would like to speak to in connection with a number of thefts from vehicles in Widnes.

Sometime between late evening on 20 January and 1.45pm the following day eight vehicles were targeted in Lynton Crescent, Francis Close, Eastway, Borrowdale Road and Hanley Road.

On each occasion thieves stole property before making off.

<https://youtu.be/g240pq8MO2E>

Sgt Phil Berry said: *“We are appealing to anyone who recognises the men in the CCTV or has more information about these thefts to contact us. The same goes for anyone with dashcam or doorbell footage which may have picked up suspicious activity in the area.”*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 [or via the Tell Us section of our website](#), quoting IML 1461042.

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

Appeal for information following fatal collision on M56



Officers investigating a fatal collision on the M56 are appealing for information.

At around 10.35am on Friday 20 January, officers were called to the M56 westbound near to junction 14 following reports of a one-vehicle collision involving a grey BMW which had come off the carriageway.

The driver of the vehicle, Matthew Clarke, 48, from Nantwich, sadly died at the scene.

His family are being supported by specialist officers.

In a tribute, his family said: *“Matt was a keen fisherman and land rover defender enthusiast.*

“An active member of Corwen and District Angling Club, he ran the Club's junior training days encouraging more youngsters into the sport and was never happier than when out on the riverbank.

"He was a much loved husband and devoted father and we will miss him and his quirky sense of humour forever.

"We are devastated to have lost him and request privacy at this most difficult time.

"We would like to thank everyone who helped Matt at the scene of the collision and the staff of Cheshire Police for their continued support."

Officers are appealing for anyone who may have any information or dashcam footage from the area around the time of the incident to please get in touch.

Anyone with information is asked to report it to Cheshire Police via [the Cheshire Police website](#) quoting IML 1460391 or call 101

Detectives investigating serious sexual assault in Wistaston issue e-fit appeal



Detectives investigating reports of a serious sexual assault in Wistaston have issued an e-fit as they continue to appeal for information.

At sometime between 2.40pm to 3pm on Monday 16 January, a serious sexual assault is reported to have taken place on Oak Tree Walk.

The victim, a 15-year-old girl, is continuing to be supported by specialist officers.

The suspect is a man, described as being aged in his late 20s, of slim build, with brown/red hair, a scar under his eye and stretcher piercings in both ears.

At the time of the incident, he was wearing frameless glasses, dark blue jeans, a burgundy coloured jumper and a mustard Trespass jacket.

Enquiries into the circumstances surrounding the incident are ongoing and as part of these enquiries, officers are now issuing an e-fit of a man.

Superintendent Claire Jesson said: *"We have had several people come forward with information which has been invaluable to our investigation however we are still keen to identify the suspect. We have now issued an e-fit of the suspect in a bid to jog people's memories to see whether they may have seen the man in and around the area at the time of the incident.*

"I would like to reassure the community that we will continue to have officers patrolling the local area, especially at key times and would urge anyone with concerns or information to please approach them and they will do all they can to assist.

"Enquiries into the incident are still ongoing and we are continuing to appeal to anyone who may have been in the area around the time of the incident and may have seen something that didn't look quite right, to come forward.

"I would ask that residents please check any doorbell or CCTV footage again and if anything, no matter how small, stands out, please get in touch with officers and we will do the rest.

"The same goes to anyone who may have information that could assist us with our enquiries."

Anyone with information is asked to report it via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/police-forces/cheshire-constabulary/areas/cheshire/about-us/about-us/provide-more-information-about-an-appeal/> quoting IML 1457696 or call 101.

Information can also be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously via 0800 555 111 or visit <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>

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