

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 5th February 2023

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Macclesfield property closed down by local officers

A property in Macclesfield that brought misery to the local community has been closed down by local officers.

Officers have received numerous reports regarding ASB and drug related activity taking place at the property on Goathland Way.

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

After gathering a mountain of evidence, officers from Macclesfield South Beat Team attended Warrington Magistrates' Court on 3 February where they were granted a three-month closure order.

The occupant of the address, a 62-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.

Sergeant Matt Bassirat said: *"Officers at Macclesfield South Beat Team are committed to making the community a safe environment for all and closure orders allow us to do this."*

"The behaviour around the Goathland Way property is totally unacceptable and I know that residents will be greatly relieved to hear the news today."

"I hope our ongoing work to tackle these issues in our neighbourhoods will provide some reassurance to the communities we serve that we will use every power available to us to restore some normality to the area."

"As always, we can't do this without the support of the communities we serve and I would urge anyone who has concerns about ASB related issues 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](#).

Rapist who targeted woman in Warrington home is jailed



A 25-year-old man who raped a woman after breaking into her home in Warrington has been jailed. Petrus-Ionut Apostoae, of Gorse Lane, Warrington, appeared at Liverpool Crown Court today, Friday 3 February, where he was sentenced to 14 years and eight months imprisonment.

He was also handed an indefinite restraining order.

The sentencing follows Apostoae's appearance at Liverpool Crown Court on Wednesday 4 January, where he pleaded guilty to two counts of rape, one count of burglary, three counts of attempted burglary and to trespass with intent to commit a sexual offence.

The court heard that how, in the early hours of Sunday 2 October 2022, Apostoae gained access to a house on Orford Lane, stealing a number of items from inside the property and leaving them in an alleyway nearby.

Apostoae then went back inside the house and raped the woman as she slept in bed.

A manhunt was launched on 2 October by Cheshire Constabulary's Major Investigation Team, with specially trained officers being deployed to the streets of Warrington.

This manhunt included extensive media appeals which depicted footage of Apostoae carrying the victim's stolen suitcase shortly after the attack.

While enquiries were ongoing, the victim was alerted to a notification from a doorbell camera that a man had tried to enter her property, along with several other properties nearby.

It was later confirmed that the man on the footage was Apostoae - who had returned to the victim's address and attempted to gain entry for the second time, just six weeks after raping her.

https://youtu.be/Mvdg_jBbwOk

The breakthrough in the investigation came after the officers undertook voluntary DNA testing in the local area, with hundreds of people agreeing to be tested – Apostoae being one of them.

It was this sample which directly linked Apostoae to the abhorrent crime.

He was swiftly arrested and subsequently charged with rape and other offences.

Detective Inspector Nigel Parr, who led the investigation said: *"This case shook the community of Warrington to its core but I hope that this sentence today shows justice has been served."*

"At the hands of Apostoae, the victim was subjected to an utterly horrendous ordeal which she will now have to live with for the rest of her life and no sentence will be able to change that."

"But it is thanks to her courage and determination that we were able to gather the very best evidence to achieve this result today."

"The evidence gathered during this investigation, particularly the DNA sample, proved vital in Apostoae's prosecution and left him with no option but to plead guilty to the charges against him."

If you have been a victim of sexual abuse, or know of someone who has, please call us on 101 or visit [the Cheshire Police website](#).

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

Former sergeant found to have a case to answer for gross misconduct

A former police sergeant has been found to have a case to answer for gross misconduct.

Ms Jennifer Kent, a former police sergeant based in Chester, was due to have an accelerated misconduct hearing on Friday 3 February.

However, the 38 year-old resigned from the force on Wednesday 18 January 2023.

Despite her resignation, the hearing went ahead, and the panel found Ms Kent had a case to answer for breaching the standards of professional behaviour in respect of discreditable conduct.

The outcome means Ms Kent has now been added to the College of Policing Barred List, meaning she is prevented from working in law enforcement in the future.

The misconduct panel stated had she still been a serving police officer she would have been dismissed without notice.

The accusations against Ms Kent, who became an officer in 2006 and joined Cheshire Constabulary in January 2016, came to light in 2021, when it was found Ms Kent had activated a social networking account and pursued a course of conduct for which she received a monetary reimbursement.

Following the hearing, Deputy Chief Constable Chris Armitt said:

“Ms Kent was in a position of trust, she swore an oath in which she promised to abide by the clear guidelines about the standards expected from her.

“However the way in which she had behaved off-duty was unacceptable and has clearly brought discredit on the police service.

“While she resigned before the misconduct hearing and was experiencing personal difficulties at the time, this does not excuse her behaviour.

“I hope the outcome of this hearing provides reassurance that when we receive a report of any ill-behaviour on or off-duty, a thorough investigation will be undertaken and we will do everything in our power to get resolution for this.”

Anyone who wishes to make a complaint, or a compliment, about the service they have received from Cheshire Constabulary can contact the Professional Standards Department by calling 101 or emailing professional.standards@cheshire.police.uk.

Two people charged with drugs offences following police stop check near Northwich

Officers have charged two people with drugs offences following a police stop check near Northwich.

At around 3pm on Wednesday 1 February, officers from Northwich Proactive Team stopped a car which was travelling towards Northwich on the A533, at Bartlington Crossroads.

Two passengers from the vehicle were both arrested on suspicion of drugs offences.

Shaun Gargan, 23, of Pencombe Road, Huyton, and Claire Penny, 34, of John Brunner Crescent, Northwich, have both been charged with possession with intent to supply Class A drugs.

The pair have both been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court today, Friday 3 February.

Seventh man charged following investigation into drug supply in Blacon

A seventh man has now been charged following an eight-month investigation into the supply of Class A drugs in Blacon.

Reece Morrison, 19, of Thirlmere Road, Blacon was charged with conspiracy to supply class A drugs (cocaine).

He has been remanded to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Friday 3 February.

The charges follow nine warrants conducted in Blacon in connection with the supply of Class A drugs in the area.

Drugs and weapons seized following dawn raids in Macclesfield

Police have arrested a man and seized a quantity of illegal drugs following a series of warrants in Macclesfield.

At around 7am on Thursday 2 February officers from Cheshire Police and British Transport Police conducted three warrants at flats on Maplewood Court, Macclesfield.

While searching the properties officers discovered a number of weapons along with a large quantity of amphetamines and other drugs paraphernalia.

A 40-year-old man was also arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply Class B drugs and possession of an offensive weapon.



Sergeant Matt Bassirat, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said:

“This morning’s operation is the result of a joint investigation by Cheshire Police and British Transport Police into county lines drug dealing.

“As a results of our partnership work we’ve been able to remove a quantity of illegal drugs and weapons from the streets of Macclesfield.

“Action such as this shows how we are continuing in the fight against illegal drugs in our community and will continue to do all we can to disrupt these criminals.”

Detective Sergeant Ian Henderson, of British Transport Police's County Lines Taskforce, said:

"The results of this morning's raids are testament to the joint work between us and our policing colleagues in Cheshire.

"County lines gangs are a blight on our society and we are as committed as ever to pursuing offenders and bringing them to justice.

"I would urge anyone who spots the signs of this criminal activity on the railway to report it to us by texting 61016. No report is too small or too trivial – each one provides us with vital intelligence that assists us in the fight against this crime type."

Anyone with information about illegal drug activity taking place in their community is urged to report it via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/soh/seen-or-heard/> or call 101.



UPDATE - Police searching for missing Northwich man Russell Tomlinson have sadly found his body

A body was discovered in the River Weaver, near Winnington Lane, Northwich, on Tuesday 24 January.

Formal identification has since confirmed that the body is that missing man Russell. His death is not believed to be suspicious and a case file will be prepared for the coroner.

Russell's family have been informed and they have issued the following statement: *"We would like to thank everyone involved in the search for Russell, and for all of the support received during this difficult time.*

"Russell was a wonderful son, brother, uncle & friend. He had a passion for live music and was a talented singer/songwriter. He will be missed by all of us x."



Six men charged following investigation into drug supply in Blacon

Six men who were arrested following an eight-month investigation into the supply of Class A drugs in Blacon have been charged.

- Ryan Jones, 30, of Auckland Road, Blacon was charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs.
- Daniel Meredith, 35, of Stratford Road, Blacon was charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs.
- Dillon O’Gorman, 27, of Melbourne Road, Blacon was charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs.
- William Mead, 18, of Coleridge Close, Blacon was charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs.
- Brian Cooper, 52, of Plas Dinas, Blacon was charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs.
- Joshua Hill, 27, of Stratford Road, Blacon was charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs.

They were all remanded to appear at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Wednesday 1 February.

The charges relate to arrests made on Tuesday 31 January as part of nine warrants conducted in the Blacon area in connection with the supply of Class A drugs in the area.

Two men charged following warrant in Widnes

Two men have been charged following a warrant at an address in Widnes.

Officers from Widnes Proactive Policing Team conducted a warrant at a property on Hale Road at around 2.30pm on 24 January.

Alex Gannon, 20, of no fixed address and Paul Jones, 47, of Hale Road, Widnes were arrested and subsequently charged with being concerned in the supply of two counts of Class A drugs, possession of controlled drug of Class B (Cannabis) and two counts of possession of a controlled drug of Class A drugs (heroin and crack cocaine).

Gannon was also charged with two counts of money laundering.

Both were remanded to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Thursday 26 January where they were further remanded to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 23 February.

Man charged following serious Neston assault

A 34-year-old Willaston man has been charged following a serious assault in Neston.

At 11.35pm on 27 January police were called to Park Street in Neston following reports of a disturbance.

During the disturbance a 17-year-old boy received a slash injury to the side of his head. He was taken to hospital for treatment.

A 34-year-old man was arrested and has since been charged with possession of a knife in a public place and section 18 wounding with intent.

Dominic Deer, previously of Change Lane, Willaston appeared at Chester Magistrates on 30 January and was remanded in custody to appear at Chester Crown Court on 27 February.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Police continue to appeal for witnesses following serious M62 collision

Police are continuing to appeal for witnesses following a collision between two HGVs on the M62 at the Croft interchange.

At 4.37am on Tuesday 31 January police were called to the collision at junction 10.

One of the vehicles was on fire, and one of the drivers sadly died at the scene. He has not yet been formally identified and efforts remain to trace next of kin.

Sgt Claire Bailey said:

“I’d appeal to anyone who was on that stretch of motorway in the early hours of 31 January to get in touch with me if you have witnessed the collision and have not yet spoken to police. I’d also ask for any dashcam footage that may help is investigate the collision to contact me.”

Anyone who witnessed the collision or has dashcam footage should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the website quoting IML 1468300.

Police appeal for information following High Legh burglary

Police are appealing for information following a burglary at an address in High Legh.

Sometime between 7.30pm and 8.30pm on Tuesday 31 January four men wearing masks forced entry into an address in West Lane and searched the address. They then fled the scene with jewellery.

At the time a 25-year-old woman and a three-year-old child were at the address.

PC Natalie Palin said:

“Thankfully neither were harmed but they were left shaken by the ordeal. We’re keen to hear from anyone who was in the area at the time who may have dash cam footage that may help, or anyone who witnessed suspicious activity in the area between 7.30pm and 8.30pm.”

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via [the website](#) quoting IML 1468909.

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

Detectives appeal for information following a robbery in Chester

Detectives are appealing for information following a robbery in Chester.

Just before 3.20am on Sunday 22 January, a man was on Eastgate Street, Chester outside the former Debenhams store, when a woman and three men approached and spoke to him.

The woman then grabbed his wallet while the one of the men punched the victim, causing him to fall to the floor. The group then fled towards The Rows.

The woman is described as being aged around 30 with long wavy brown hair, of normal build wearing all black with black jacket and tights.

One of the men was aged mid to late 30s, of normal build with black gloves on his hand and was wearing a black padded coat and black trousers.

Police are now keen to speak to anyone who may have information that could assist officers with their investigation.

Detective Constable Tessa Munt said: *“At the time of the offence, Chester city centre would have been busy with people leaving bars and clubs following nights out.*

“The victim has been left understandably shaken following this incident and we are doing all we can to locate the people responsible.

“I would appeal to anyone who was in the Eastgate Street area of Chester and may have seen something that didn’t look quite right to get in touch.

“The same goes to anyone who may have been in the area and has dashcam or mobile footage of the offence or offenders.

“Any information, no matter how small, could assist us in finding the offenders and bring them to justice.”

Anyone with information is urged to contact Cheshire Police via [the Cheshire Police website](#) quoting IML 1461834 or call 101.

Appeal for information after man assaulted in Macclesfield

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following the assault of a man in Macclesfield.

Shortly after 12pm on Saturday 28 January the victim, a 38-year-old local man, knocked at the door of a flat at Maplewood, on Maple Avenue.

Upon answering the door, the man told the occupant that he had been assaulted. Police and paramedics were called to the scene, and the man was taken to hospital.

He was found to have sustained serious injuries, he remains in hospital at this time.

An investigation into the incident has been launched and officers are urging anyone with any information to get in touch.

Detective Constable Jas Kaur, of Macclesfield CID said:

“This investigation is in its early stages and we’re doing all we can to establish exactly what has taken place.

“Initial enquiries suggest that this was a targeted incident, and the victim was in the Gaothland Way area when the assault took place.

“Therefore, as part of our investigation we’re keen to hear from anyone who was in the Gaothland Way or Maple Avenue area at the time of the incident and believes they may have seen anything suspicious.

“Information can either be reported direct to us on 101, or alternatively if you don’t want to speak to an officer, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.”

Anyone with any information can contact Cheshire Police at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, or call 101, quoting IML 1466379.

Two local men, aged 36 and 43, were arrested on suspicion of assault in relation to the incident, they have since been released pending further enquiries.

Police appeal for information following suspected arson in Hartford

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a suspected arson at a café near Northwich.

Shortly after 1.30am on Saturday 28 January, police were called to reports of a fire at Hartford picnic area on the A556, Northwich Bypass.

Officers attended the scene and found a fire at the rear of a portacabin at the site.

The fire also spread to the building, causing damage to the café that was operating from the site.

The incident is currently being treated as suspicious and as part of the investigation officers are appealing for anyone with any information to come forward.

Detective Sergeant Rob Astbury, of Northwich CID, said:

“Enquiries in relation to this incident are in the early stages and we are doing all we can to establish exactly what took place.

“As part of our investigation we’re keen to hear from anyone who in the area between 1am and 1.30am on Saturday and believes they may have seen anything suspicious.

“I’m also keen to hear from the occupants of an old style Landrover, which was seen in the area at the time of the incident.

“The same goes for anyone with any dashcam footage of any vehicles entering or leaving the site.

“I’d urge anyone with any information in relation to the incident to contact the team here at Northwich on 101, or online at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting IML 1466160.

“Alternatively, if you don’t want to speak to us directly, information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.”

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