

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 12 February 2023

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Man arrested following three robberies in Ellesmere Port

Detectives investigating three robberies in Ellesmere Port have arrested a man in connection with the incidents.

The 19-year-old local man was arrested earlier today, Friday 10 February, after officers conducted a stop and search on Whitby Road, Ellesmere Port.

He has been arrested on suspicion of robbery and is currently being held in police custody.

The arrest follows three separate reports of robbery on Westminster Park, Exeter Road, and Ellesmere Port Railway Station between the hours of 4.45pm and 9pm on Wednesday 8 February.

Detective Chief Inspector Justin Hancock said: *"This investigation remains very much ongoing, although I hope that today's arrest provides reassurance for the local community.*

"While our enquiries continue, I urge anyone who was in the Westminster Park, Exeter Road or Ellesmere Port Railway Station areas and believes they may have seen anything suspicious or unusual, to get in touch.

"The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage that may be relevant to our investigation."

If you have any information, no matter how small, please call us on 101, quoting IML 1474764 or give the details [via the website](#).

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

Man charged in connection with drug offences in Runcorn

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

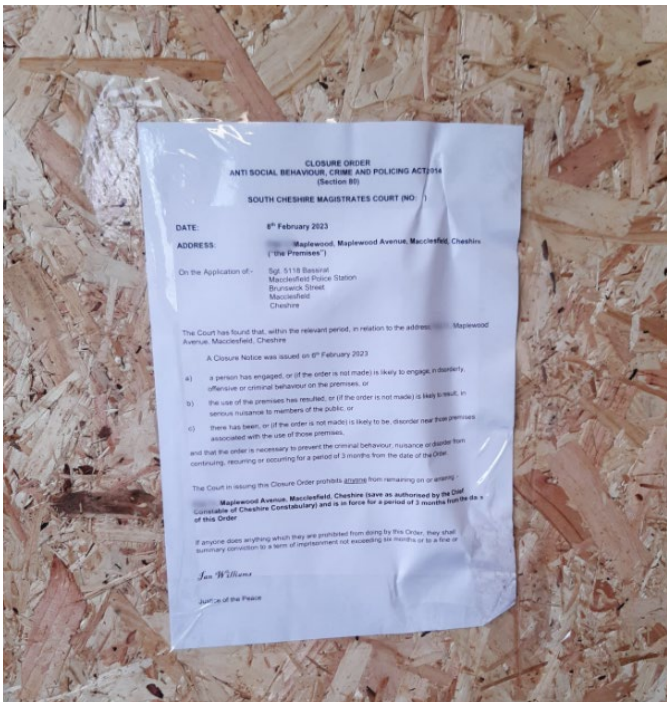
Joshua Dowdall, of Coronation Drive, Roby, was arrested and subsequently charged with two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs (crack cocaine and heroin) and one count of

possession of a class B drug (cannabis).

The 18-year-old has since been remanded into custody and is next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Friday 10 March.

The charges relate to an incident on Thursday 9 February at around 10am on Percival Lane, Runcorn.

Closure order secured against property involved in anti-social behaviour and drug activity



Macclesfield South Beat Team have secured a closure order on a property in the town following concerns over drug dealing at the address.

The closure order at an address on Maplewood Avenue was granted at Crewe Magistrates' Court on 8 February.

The closure order is a direct result of officers responding to concerns from residents regarding drug related activity and anti-social behaviour at the property.

The order, which will run for three months, will see the occupant of the address, a 54-year-old man, leave the address and find alternative accommodation.

All windows and doors will now be boarded up and anyone who enters the address during this time is committing a criminal offence and can be arrested.

Sergeant Matt Bassirat said: *“This property brought misery to residents and I am grateful that we have now been able to close it down and remove the occupier.*

“Over recent weeks we have had a range of closure orders granted through the courts and I hope that residents can see the proactive action we are taking to address concerns raised to us.

“We will not stop in our efforts to make Macclesfield a safer place for all to work and visit.”

Inspector Chris Watkins said: *“Closure orders are a fantastic preventative tool for local policing and are really valuable in helping to remove ASB and criminality*

“This address has brought misery to residents for far too long and I thank the courts for granting this order to allow the community to return to some normality.

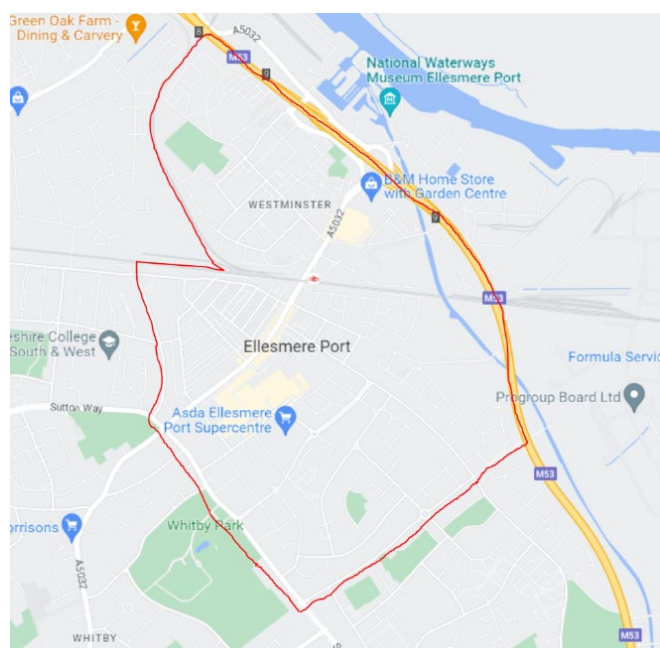
“Without communication with our residents we would not have secured this result that we have today.

“I want to urge anyone with concerns about ASB or other criminality in their community to please contact local officers and we will do everything we can to address issues and achieve justice.”

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](#).

Officers in Ellesmere Port granted more powers to stop and search



Officers in Ellesmere Port have been given more powers to stop and search anyone they suspect of carrying a weapon.

It follows concerns raised by the local community after three reports of robberies taking place in the town.

The powers have been granted temporarily under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (1994).

The order means that officers can stop and search any person or vehicle they believe may be carrying weapons or causing serious violence in a particular area, whether or not they have any grounds of suspicion.

The powers will be in place from 3pm Thursday 9 February, and will remain in force until 2.59pm on Friday 10 February. It applies to an area of Ellesmere Port including the Westminster Estate, Town Centre and Wolverham areas.

Chief Inspector Leeroy Moss said: *"I want to reassure the public that this is just one of the ways in which we are using all the powers available to us to locate those responsible."*

"Along with the order, there will be an additional police presence across the town and anyone believed to be causing disruption in the community will be targeted."

"With this in mind, anyone who has any concerns, please approach an officer and they will do their best to assist."

Anyone who has any information about someone carrying a weapon is urged to contact police on 101, visit [the Cheshire Police website](#) or call Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

Four men charged following Ellesmere Port drugs raids

Four men who were arrested following a series of warrants in Ellesmere Port have been charged.

All four men have been charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs (Crack cocaine).

Below are the details of the four defendants -

Guvanel Agrela, 57, of Pembridge Court, Ellesmere Port
Riley Broster, 26, of Hampton Gardens, Ellesmere Port
Thomas Andrew Turner, 27, of Leven Walk, Ellesmere Port
Ryan Alfred Winkle, 28, of Pembridge Court, Ellesmere Port

The four men have all been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 9 March.

County lines dealer jailed following police intercept near Northwich

A county lines drug dealer from Merseyside has been jailed after he was caught transporting illegal drugs into Cheshire.

Lewis Roberts appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 1 February where he was sentenced to 44 months in prison.

The 34-year-old, of Norwyn Road, Liverpool, had previously pleaded guilty to two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs.

At the sentencing the court heard how Roberts was arrested following an investigation into county lines drug dealing by officers from Northwich Proactive Team.

During their enquiries, officers identified a blue BMW 318 that they believed was transporting Roberts between Northwich and Liverpool to collect class A drugs.

At around 3.30pm on Wednesday 4 January, officers decided to intercept the vehicle on the A556 near Lostock Gralam.

Roberts was a passenger in the vehicle and when searched by officers he was found in possession of a large ball of crack cocaine which was hidden between his buttocks.

Officers also discovered a bag of heroin and a mobile phone in the back of the car.

It was estimated that the drugs had a street value of £4,770.

Following his arrest Roberts refused to come out of his cell for questioning and spoke only to tell officers that "the drugs were for personal use."

However, upon appearing at Chester Magistrates' Court on Thursday 5 January, he pleaded guilty to two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs (heroin and crack cocaine).

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

"I welcome the sentence handed to Roberts and I hope that his conviction sends out a warning to other dealers planning to come across the border and target the Northwich area.

"While Roberts attempted to claim that the drugs were for personal use, it is clear that he was a county lines dealer, bringing illegal drugs from Liverpool to sell in Northwich and Winsford.

“Thankfully, as a result of our work, we were able to intercept Roberts and remove almost £5,000 worth of class A drugs from the streets of mid-Cheshire.

“While Roberts is now behind bars, our crackdown on county lines dealers continues, and we will use all the tools available to us to ensure that Cheshire remains a hostile environment for criminals.”

Chief Inspector Leeroy Moss, of Northwich Local Policing Unit, said:

“Illegal drugs have a hugely detrimental impact and we are committed to doing all we can to remove those involved in the supply of such drugs from our communities.

“Information from the public is vital for this fight and I urge anyone with any information about suspected drug related activity in their community to get in touch.

“You will be listened to and we will investigate the matter.”

You can report suspected drug dealing to Cheshire Constabulary directly by calling 101 or giving the details online via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>.

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.



Three men jailed following police chase through Northwich

Three men who led police on a dangerous pursuit through the streets of Northwich have been jailed.

The trio appeared at were all sentenced at Liverpool Crown Court on Tuesday 7 February where they were sentenced to the following -

- Saul Blackley, 33, of Goldrill Avenue, Bolton – sentenced to 12 months in prison for burglary other than a dwelling and possession of a class B drug (Cannabis)
- Jordan Buckle, 24, of Dickinson Street West, Horwich, Bolton - sentenced to 12 months in prison for burglary other than a dwelling. Also banned from driving for three years and nine months for failing to provide a specimen.
- Adam Hodson, 36, of Suffolk Street, Salford - sentenced to 12 months in prison for burglary other than a dwelling and failing to provide a specimen.

All three men had previously pleaded guilty to all the charges against them.

During the hearing the court heard how, at around 12.30am on Friday 5 August 2022, police were made aware of an ongoing burglary at an e-bike shop on Hollands Road, Northwich.

The caller reported that the unit had been rammed and a number of high value bikes had been stolen.

Officers were quickly deployed to the scene and while on-route a quick-thinking officer spotted a white Volkswagen Crafter van which was travelling at speed near to Leicester Street Roundabout.

The officer decided to pursue the vehicle as it travelled along Manchester Road and into Lostock Gram.

The trio eventually abandoned the vehicle after the drove into Cedar Close, which is a dead-end road. The men all attempted to flee the scene on foot to evade police.

However, officers flooded the area and all three men were quickly arrested after being found hiding in nearby gardens.

Officers also recovered all of the stolen items inside the abandoned van and discovered clothing and gloves worn by the suspects dumped nearby.

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

“The actions of these three men had a significant impact on the business. Not only did the men steal almost £10,000 worth of stock, but they also caused significant damage to the exterior of building, which resulted in loss of trade and cost almost £18,000 to repair.

“In addition, the business will also be forced to relocate as their landlord refused to renew the lease at the end of the current term because of the burglary.

“Thankfully, as a result of the quick-thinking officer, and the subsequent investigation, all three men have now been held accountable for their actions and all of the stolen items have been recovered and returned.

“I hope that the conclusion of this case will provide some closure to the business owners, and also acts as reassurance to other local residents and businesses, demonstrating how we are committed to doing all we can to tackle burglary.

“I also hope that the sentence acts as a warning to any other criminals planning to come across the border and target Northwich – the message is clear we will be waiting for you and we will get you.”



Adam Hodson

Saul Blackley

Jordan Buckle

Three women arrested in relation to Warrington murder

Detectives investigating the murder of a man in Warrington have arrested three women in relation to the incident.

Billy Moore died on Thursday 22 December following an incident at an address on Yardley Avenue, Warrington.

A 41-year-old man has since been charged with murder in relation to his death. James Ireland, of Lodge Lane, Warrington, is currently remanded in custody awaiting trial.

As part of ongoing enquiries, detective have today (Tuesday 7 February) arrested three local women in relation to the incident.

The women, aged 45, 49 and 60, were all arrested this morning on suspicion of assisting an offender.

They have all been released under investigation pending further enquiries.

Appeal for information following Knutsford burglary

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a burglary at a house in Knutsford.

At around 7.40pm on Monday 6 February, police were called to reports of a burglary at an address on Goughs Lane.

The caller reported that unknown offenders had forced entry into the address and stolen a number of items, including jewellery.

The offenders then fled the address after being disturbed by the occupants, escaping over a field at the rear of the property.

Officers were deployed to the scene and, while searching the area, became aware of a black BMW in the Severn Sisters Lane area.

Police stopped the car and arrested the 42-year-old driver on suspicion of burglary and going equipped to burgle. The man, of no fixed abode, is currently being held in police custody.

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

Detective Sergeant Stephen Joyce, of Macclesfield CID, said;

“While we have made an arrest in relation to this incident, we suspect that there were others were involved and we are keen to hear from anyone with any information.

“We would specifically like to hear from any residents in the area who witnessed suspicious or have any CCTV footage which may aid our investigation.

“The same goes for any motorists who may have dashcams who were driving in the area between 7pm and 8.30pm and may have footage of the offenders arriving at or fleeing the scene.

“I’d ask anyone with any information, no matter how small, to contact the team here at Macclesfield on 101, or at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting IML 1473354.”

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

Macclesfield man jailed for rape, assault and controlling and coercive behaviour

A violent and manipulative bully who was found guilty of raping, assaulting and coercing three women has been sentenced to 33 years imprisonment.

David Fury-Walsh, also known as David Overton, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 6 February where he was sentenced to 27 years in prison plus six years on licence.

The 31-year-old was found guilty of 25 offences on Wednesday 14 December following a three-week trial at Chester Crown Court.

The offences included 13 counts of rape, four counts of sexual assault, three counts of controlling and coercive behaviour, three counts of actual bodily harm, one count of sexual touching and possession of a knife.

The case against Fury-Walsh began in September 2021 when Cheshire Constabulary received reports that he had raped and assaulted a woman.

Fury-Walsh was arrested within hours of the report, and while he was in custody two other women became aware of his arrest and built up the courage to report that they were also victims of his abusive and controlling behaviour.

The victims all told police how when they initially met Fury-Walsh he was a caring and generous man, who told his victims that he was a relative of the boxing champion Tyson Fury.

However, his behaviour quickly changed, and he began to abuse and control the women.

Fury-Walsh forced his victims to have sex on demand, violently assaulting them if they didn't comply with his wishes. On two occasions he even forced his victims to eat their own faeces.

He also controlled the women's finances, taking out loans in their names and manipulating them into handing over their savings on the promise that there would be a big return, which never emerged.

Following the reports officers from Cheshire Constabulary built up a case file of evidence against Fury-Walsh and charged him with a total of 25 offences.

Following the verdict, Detective Constable Jade Bannerman, who led the investigation said:

“Firstly I would like to thank the victims for bravery that they have shown throughout this investigation.

“While they will never be able to forget what happened to them, and no sentence will ever compensate for what he did, I do hope that the fact he is now behind bars will provide them some closure.

“Fury-Walsh was a violent and manipulative bully, but thanks to the courage of the three victims and the evidence we gathered, the jury saw through his lies, and he is now being held accountable for his actions.”

In addition to his prison sentence, Fury-Walsh was also handed indefinite restraining orders against all three victims and ordered to sign the sex offenders register for life.

Detective Inspector Robert Lees of Eastern CID added:

“This has been an extremely complex investigation and I would like to commend DC Bannerman for her dedication and commitment throughout the case. I would also like to thank all of the other officers involved in the investigation.

“Nobody should have to experience what any of these women have been though and if anything can be achieved from this case, I hope that it encourages other victims of sexual offences to come forward and report them to us.

“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.

“Victims should never feel ashamed to talk about what they have been subjected to. They will receive the help and support they need from our specialist officers, as well as from other support agencies we work alongside, and all victims of sexual offences have the right to anonymity.”

To report any sexual offence, call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> .

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

Officers boost efforts to target key issues during Neighbourhood Policing Week

Officers across Cheshire boosted efforts to address key issues in their communities during Neighbourhood Policing Week 2023.

They were aided by the Special Constabulary during the national week of action, which ended on Sunday 29 January 2023.

Officers, PCSOs, Specials and staff members carried out a wide range of engagement, prevention, protection, and enforcement activities across Cheshire's nine Local Policing Units (LPUs) to address areas of concern raised by local residents.

Chief Superintendent Peter Crowcroft, Head of Local Policing, said: *"Effective neighbourhood policing is one of our main priorities at the Constabulary, and our success in this area is one of the reasons why Cheshire is among the safest places to live, work and visit in the country.*

"Neighbourhood Policing Week is a celebration of local, community and neighbourhood policing, and we have a lot to celebrate in that regard.

"We marked the week of action by engaging with a large number of Cheshire residents, either in person or through our local social media accounts, about the extensive work we are doing to make the county even safer.

"We also carried out extensive prevention and enforcement activities across Cheshire, with a particular focus on addressing what residents consider to be key issues within their communities.

"I would like to thank the LPUs and the Special Constabulary for all the fantastic work they did during the national week of action, and we will now look to build on that work. As a force, we are committed to preventing crime and ASB – making our county a hostile environment for criminals, and we will continue to relentlessly target those suspected of wrongdoing.

"I urge anyone who has any concerns in the neighbourhoods – whether that be about anti-social behaviour, drug-related activity, or any other type of crime – to get in touch with us via the website, and we will do the rest."

The prevention and enforcement activities undertaken during the week – many of which involved working alongside partner agencies – included:

- Knife sweeps
- Drug warrants
- House closures
- School engagement visits
- Operational activity at local colleges
- Project Servator deployments
- Additional patrols targeting ASB hotspot areas
- Resident's Voice engagement events
- Bicycle marking events
- Licenced premises and off-licence engagement visits
- Road safety operations

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, John Dwyer, said: *“The Constabulary has dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Teams who work extremely hard to keep their communities safe, and engage with them and support them every day.*

“Neighbourhood Policing Week provides an opportunity to shine a spotlight on them and highlight some of the great work they do to keep everyone safe.

“Engaging with communities and tackling speeding and anti-social behaviour are all key areas of work, and these issues are regularly brought to my attention.

“The action that was taken during the week should provide reassurance to communities across Cheshire that their concerns will be acted upon and improve public confidence in policing.”



Man convicted of attempted murder following revenge attack in Northwich

A man from Wigan has been found guilty of attempted murder after attacking a man with a machete outside a gym in Northwich.

Samson Price was convicted of the charge following a six-day trial at Chester Crown Court which concluded on Monday 6 February 2023.

He had also pleaded guilty to the charge of possession of a knife in a public place.

The 48-year-old of Sefton Road, Wigan, has been remanded in custody and will be sentenced on Thursday 23 March.

During the trial the court heard how Price's son, Samson Jnr, drowned at Wigan Flash on Sunday 4 October 2020.

An investigation into the 18-year-olds death was undertaken by Greater Manchester Police and two teenage boys were arrested – including the victim from the Northwich attack.

However, no charges were ever brought against the pair, and a coroner has since ruled an open verdict.

Price was unhappy with the outcome of the police investigation into his son's death so decided to take the law into his own hands in a carefully planned attack.

In the weeks prior to the attack Price purchased a tracker which he installed on the victim's car to monitor his every movement.

After following him for several days Price decided to confront the victim on Thursday 23 September 2021 outside a gym on the outskirts of Northwich town centre.

Price arrived at the Leicester Street gym shortly before 6pm and waited outside armed with a machete and wearing a face mask to stop the victim from recognising him.

He then followed the victim as he exited the premises and repeatedly attacked him from behind with a machete.

During the attack it is estimated that the victim was slashed between 15 and 20 times.

Price eventually stopped his attack after the victim fell to the floor covered in blood, he then made off from the scene on foot before getting into a vehicle which was parked nearby.

Police and paramedics swiftly attended the scene, and the victim was rushed to Aintree Hospital where he received lifesaving treatment.

After making off from the scene Price went into hiding for ten days, but he subsequently handed himself in and was charged in connection with the incident.

After his arrest Price admitted carrying out the attack, he claimed that he had not intended to kill the victim but just wanted to harm him.

However, after listening to all of the evidence he was found guilty of attempted murder.

Following today's verdict Detective Constable John Corrigan, formally of CID, who led the investigation said:

"This was an absolutely terrifying ordeal for the victim, and I welcome the verdict that the jury have reached today.

"While I have sympathy for Price following the death of his son, there is no excuse for the actions he took on the night of the attack.

“Price attacked the victim from behind, leaving him totally defenceless, and specifically hit his leg to demobilise him.

“The attack lasted just 23 seconds, but during that time we estimate that the victim was slashed between 15 and 20 times – including multiple wounds to his head, arms, and right leg.

“I have no doubt that had it not been for the assistance provided to the victim by the public, along with the swift response of officers and paramedics, the outcome of this case could have been very different.”



Chief Inspector Leeroy Moss, head of Northwich Local Policing Unit, added:

“Thankfully, incidents of this nature are extremely rare in the Northwich area, however I understand that this attack caused shockwaves in the local community.

“I would like to reassure residents that we are committed to doing all we can to tackle knife crime.

“We will respond robustly to any knife related incidents and do all we can to ensure that anyone found to be carrying a knife or committing a knife related offence is brought to justice.

“Members of the public also have a vital role to play in our fight against knife crime by giving us information about crimes involving knives and those who carry weapons.”

To report any type of crime involving weapons please contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101, or 999 in an emergency.

Information can also be passed to the force online via www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report or given to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Five men arrested following suspected burglary in Ince

Police have arrested five men in connection with a suspected burglary at an industrial site in Ince.

At around 6.20pm on Sunday 5 February police were called to reports of suspicious activity at a site on Pool Lane.

Local officers, supported by the police helicopter and police dogs, attended the scene, and five men were arrested at the site.

Three of the men, aged 20, 28 and 39, were arrested on suspicion of burglary; the other two men, aged 19 and 34, were arrested on suspicion of going equipped to steal.

The men, who are all from the Wolverhampton and Chester areas, are all being held in police custody where they are assisting officers with their enquiries.

Police Constable Jess Small, of the Western Area Investigation Team, said:

“Burglaries of all nature are not acceptable, and we are committed to doing all we can to ensure those responsible are held accountable for their actions.

“On this occasion, as a result of the swift attendance at the scene, and a co-ordinated search of the area, five men have been arrested and are currently assisting with our enquires.

“I would like to thank all the officers involved in the response, and I hope that these arrests provide reassurance to local residents and businesses.”

Detectives arrest two teenagers in connection with the death of 16-year-old Brianna Ghey in Warrington

Detectives have arrested two teenagers following the death of 16-year-old Brianna Ghey in Warrington.

Emergency services were called to Linear Park in Culcheth by members of the public at 3.13pm yesterday, Saturday 11 February 2023, after Brianna’s body was found on a path where she was sadly pronounced dead.

As part of ongoing enquiries, a 15-year-old boy and a 15-year-old girl, both from the local area, have been arrested on suspicion of murder.

They are currently in custody assisting police with their investigation.



16-year-old Brianna Ghey

Detective Chief Superintendent Mike Evans said: *“A number of enquiries in relation to this incident are underway and we are doing all that we can to establish the exact circumstances of what has happened.*

“At this time, there is no evidence to suggest that the circumstances surrounding Brianna’s death are hate related.

“Patrols have been stepped up in the local area and officers will remain in the Culcheth area to provide reassurance and address any concerns that residents may have.

“I would ask anyone who has any information, no matter how big or small, that they believe could help with our investigation to get in touch.

“We are also keen for people and businesses within the local community to check any CCTV or dashcam footage for anything that may aid our investigation.”

Anyone with information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 1476832 or [report it to us via our website](#).

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

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for information following distraction burglary in Warrington

Detectives are appealing for information from the public following a distraction burglary in Warrington.

At around 3.30pm on Wednesday 8 February a man called at a house in Cliftonville Road, Woolston.

He told the elderly occupier that the gutters needed cleaning and offered to do the work for £100.

The pensioner agreed, and after he had followed her into the house she paid him the £100 as a second man went round the back of the property with a ladder.

A short time later the first man knocked back on the front door claiming that the occupier had only given him £80.

He followed her back into the house as the occupier got him a further £20.

After being given the money, the two men left the address without cleaning the gutters.

The police were subsequently called, and when telling officers what had happened the occupier discovered that a more substantial quantity of money had been taken from the house.

Detective Constable Vicky Hancox, of Warrington Proactive CID, said: *“The distraction burglary has left the homeowner extremely shaken up and upset – and understandably so.*

“Your home is the place you should be able to feel most safe. Being the victim of a burglary is always a deeply upsetting experience, but it is particularly traumatic when it occurs when you are at home.

“In this instance, we believe that the man who knocked on the victim’s door offering to clean the gutters stole a quantity of cash whilst he was inside the house.

“He is described as a white man who looked to be in his 40s.

“He and the man he was with, another white man who spoke with an Irish accent, then left the address without carrying out the agreed work.

“It is believed that they were travelling in a white van.

“Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing.

“As part of our enquiries, I urge anyone who believes that they may have any information or CCTV, doorbell or dashcam footage regarding the incident, the two men or the white van to get in touch.”

Anyone with information or footage that may help with the investigation is urged to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 1474656.

Alternatively, give the details via the [Cheshire Constabulary website](#) or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Residents are advised to be wary of anyone who calls at your home unexpectedly and to never let strangers inside.

DC Hancox said: *“I want to take this opportunity to urge residents to be vigilant and to call the police on 101 if you become suspicious of anyone who comes to your door offering to carry out work.*

“I also ask residents to look out for elderly or vulnerable neighbours by checking on their welfare and reporting any suspicious activity to the police.”

Cheshire Constabulary’s advice on how to avoid falling victim to such crimes is:

- Ask a neighbour or friend nearby to check out a doorstep caller before you open the door to them or agree to have any work done
- Always check the identity of doorstep callers by asking for identification, and telephone any company they claiming to be from – use the company’s listed telephone number (never use a number a doorstep caller gives you)
- Check whether traders are members of the Local Authority Assured Trader Scheme or the Government’s TrustMark scheme
- If you have any doubts about a caller being genuine, do not let them in and ask them to come back later when you are not alone
- If you feel that improvement or maintenance work needs carrying out at your property, discuss this with a relative or a friend who can help you find a reputable trader

- Do not agree to any work on the spot, or sign anything – do not let anyone pressure you into having work done
- It is always wise to get quotes from a number of traders before agreeing to have work done, to ensure that you are not overcharged
- If someone comes into your home, ensure that you close the door behind them – distraction burglars often work in teams and while you are distracted another person may sneak in through an open door – and stay with them at all times while they you are in your property so that you can see what they are doing
- Do not pay cash up front and never go to the bank or to a cashpoint with a doorstep caller.

Appeal for information following high value theft in Northwich

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a high value theft on Manchester Road in Northwich.

At around 2.30pm on Tuesday 7 February, a white articulated lorry was driving on the A559, Manchester Road, travelling towards Manchester.

As the lorry approached the traffic lights, outside the Costa Coffee drive-thru, the vehicle in front, a silver Honda Civic, slammed on the brakes and appeared to take a long time to pull out when the lights turned green.

The driver continued his journey and as he looked in his wing mirror he became aware of a white transit van which was directly behind him.

As the lorry approached the next set of traffic lights at the junction of the A556, the Honda Civic again stopped sharply once more.

Becoming suspicious, the driver pulled over at the side of the road and attempted to take a photo of the transit van behind him.

However, as he did so, the van drove the wrong way around the junction and joined the A556 travelling towards Chester.

After checking his vehicle, the driver discovered that approximately 5,000 cigarettes had been stolen.

Police have since recovered the stolen cigarettes and the white transit van after a member of the public reported suspicious activity in the White Park Close area of Middlewich at 4.50pm on 7 February.

However, no arrests have been made and officers are now appealing for information from the public.

Police Constable Dan Lee, of Northwich CID, said:

“This incident took place on one of the main roads through Northwich on a busy weekday afternoon and we know that there were other motorists in the area who may have witnessed the theft.

“As part of our ongoing investigation, I’m keen to hear from anyone who was travelling on Manchester Road, Lostock, between 2pm and 2.30pm and believes that they may have seen anything suspicious.

“The same goes for any motorists with dashcam footage, this includes motorists who may have seen the van as it travelled down the A556, towards Chester, and onto King Street.

“We are also keen to hear from residents in the White Park Close area of Middlewich who believe they may have seen, or have any video footage, of the offenders following the incident – at around 3.30pm

“I would ask anyone with any information, no matter how small, to call the team here at Northwich on 101, or online at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting IML 1473814.”

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

Police appeal for information following sexual assault in Northwich

Police are appealing for information from the public following reports of a sexual assault in Northwich.

On Sunday 25 September 2022 police received reports that a man had been sexually assaulted by two unknown men in Northwich.

The incident is reported to have taken place sometime between Friday 23 and Sunday 25 September in an abandoned car which was parked at a car park at the top of Witton Street, near to Percy’s Autos.

Enquiries in relation to the incident have been ongoing and as part of the investigation officers are now appealing for information from the public.

Detective Constable Stacey Connor, of Northwich CID, said:

“I understand that a lot of time has passed since this incident occurred but I want to be clear that we have been following a number of lines of enquiry which has led us to now be in a position to appeal for information from the public.

“I also want to reassure the local community that incidents such as this are rare and we have been doing all we can to trace the people responsible since this incident has been reported to us.

“As part of our enquires, we are urging local people to cast their minds back to September to see if they can remember anything significant, which might assist with the investigation.

“We appreciate that this is asking people to think back over a period of a few months but even the smallest detail can be significant when piecing together a case.

“We’re particularly keen to hear from any members of the homeless community, or anyone who frequents the car park, who may be aware of who was staying in the area at the time of the incident.”

Anyone with any information is urged to call Cheshire Police on 101, or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/police-forces/cheshire-constabulary/areas/cheshire/about-us/about-us/provide-more-information-about-an-appeal/>, quoting incident number IML 1375008.

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

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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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