

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 4th July 2021

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Ellesmere Port Drug dealer jailed following successful stop check in Runcorn

A man who was found in possession of more than £40,000 worth of class A drugs has been jailed following a successful stop check in Runcorn.

Leon Rix was arrested shortly after 12pm on Wednesday 2 June after officers from Cheshire Police Roads and Crime Unit stopped a Vauxhall Astra on Rocksavage Expressway in Runcorn. While searching his car officers discovered a one kilo block of cocaine which was hidden under the driver's seat, along with a baton in the glove compartment. A drugs expert has estimated that the drugs, which still had the original stamp on from Colombia, had an estimated street value of between £42,870 and £142,900. During questioning Rix denied being a dealer and claimed that he was simply moving the drugs for somebody else. Despite his pleas, he was charged with possession with intent to supply class A drugs and possession of a knife in a public place. Rix, 28, of Browning Drive, Great Sutton, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 1 July where he was jailed for three years and six months after pleading guilty to both offences.



Following his sentencing Inspector Anton Sullivan from the Cheshire police Road and Crime Unit, said: "*This a fantastic result which has resulted in the removal of a significant quantity of illegal drugs from the streets of Cheshire and the person responsible now behind bars. The impact that illegal drugs have on our communities cannot be underestimated and I would like to thank all of the officers involved in this case for their dedication and determination to make our county safer. We're committed to doing all we can to make Cheshire a hostile place for criminals and we use all the tools available to us to help achieve our goal. I hope this result sends out a strong warning to other offenders, the message is clear, if you come to Cheshire to commit crime, you will be caught and you will be brought to justice.*"

Multiple arrests, jail for 100 years and cash, drugs and luxury items seized in 12 months since infiltration of EncroChat

Drugs, cash and luxury items seized along with multiple arrests and convictions made since the infiltration of EncroChat one-year ago today.

A total of 15 men have been arrested by the Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) after international authorities intercepted messages on

EncroChat
Used by criminals to commit organised crime.
Including co-ordinating and planning the distribution of illicit commodities, money laundering and plotting to kill rival criminals.

Operation Venetic
Cheshire Police has made 15 arrests over the last 12 months.
Seven of which have already admitted to their criminality and have been jailed for almost 100 years.
Seizures of class A and class B drugs, quantities of cash, high value cars and luxury items, which will be processed through the Proceeds of Crime Act.

an encrypted communications platform on Thursday 2 July 2020. Seven of the 15 men have already been jailed for a total of almost 100 years after pleading guilty to using EncroChat to facilitate their criminal activity. One man was sentenced to 22 years and five months after pleading guilty – one of the highest jail terms recorded in the country under Operation Venetic. The criminal activity taking place on the encrypted device ranges from drug supply and importation to the transfer of firearms as well as multiple threats made to the lives of those associated with organised criminality.

In May 2020 EncroChat was cracked by French and Dutch authorities and led to Cheshire Constabulary being part of a large-scale investigation led by the National Crime Agency and working with the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit and the Crown Prosecution Service. The operation also involved regional organised crime units and police forces across the country. The EncroChat had 60,000 users worldwide and around 10,000 users in the UK. It was being used for coordinating and planning the distribution of illicit commodities, money laundering and plotting to kill rival criminals. The phones – which have pre-loaded apps for instant messaging, the ability to make VOIP calls and a kill code which wipes them remotely have no other conventional smart phone functionality and cost around £1,500 for a six-month contract.

DI Ian Murray, from Cheshire Constabulary's Serious and Organised Crime Unit, said: *"In the last 12 months a dedicated team of detectives have focused on pursuing individuals believed to be using the bespoke encrypted device to engage in some of the highest level of serious and organised crime. By monitoring and building on the intelligence we have so far arrested 15 men, seven of which have already admitted to their criminality and been jailed for almost 100 years – one sentence was recorded as being one of the highest in the country since Operation Venetic began. These arrests have also led to the seizure of class A and class B drugs, quantities of cash, high value cars and luxury items, which will be processed through the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA). This operation has been paramount in unearthing individuals within our community who were operating their criminality under the radar. Be assured that our work is continuing and no stone will be left unturned until they have all been identified and located to be dealt with by Cheshire's Serious and Organised Crime Unit."*

DSupt Paul Denn from the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (NWROCU) said: *"Since the takedown of 'EncroChat' twelve months ago, our officers have continued to work together with our six North West police forces, to identify the criminals who were using the encrypted devices to carry out their illegal activity. Tackling serious and organised crime, and those who cause the most harm to our communities in the North West remains our top priority here at the NWROCU, and we will continue use all our specialist tactics to disrupt these dangerous offenders operating across our region. Since last July more than 400 people have been arrested across the North West and more than £16 million pounds in cash and 400kg of Class A and B drugs seized as part of Operation Venetic. I can reassure communities across the North West that we will leave no stone unturned - we will continue to interpret, analyse and share intelligence and data to target and dismantle the most hardened criminals in our region."*

Man charged in connection with drug offences in Warrington

Officers have charged a man in connection with drug offences following a stop check in Warrington.

At 11.10am on Thursday 30 June police conducted a stop check on a 19-year-old man in an alleyway off Gregory Close. The man, who is from the Manchester area, was subsequently arrested. Joshua McDougall, of Barlow Street, Eccles, has since been charged with two counts of possession with intent to supply class A

drugs (Heroin and crack cocaine) and two counts of possession of a knife in a public place. McDougall has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Friday 2 July.

Allotment will help grow community spirit

Safer streets funding has enabled a Warrington community to open its own allotment.

Today, Thursday 1 July 2021, saw the official opening of a community allotment in Bewsey and Whitecross, which has brought together different aspects of the community. The area in which the allotment has been constructed was identified as a problem area, with residents wanting to use the disused land for something that would help to build community spirit. This is the latest phase of a Safer Streets project which has been successful in Warrington, it included the installation of a CCTV network, giving quality door locks to local residents and quality cycle locks to local cyclists. The funding also saw a local subway being revamped with local school children picking a design which a graffiti artist then painted. These children have then taken on the role as 'mini' police officers, to protect the newly revamped area. The money has been funded by the Home Office as part of a number of grants that local Constabularies can bid for to combat crime in their respective geographical areas.



Inspector Ruth Atherton, in charge of the Safer Streets project for Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: "*I have really enjoyed working on this project and meeting some amazing people in the community who are going to help make this allotment a success. I have already had contact from lots of people enquiring about how they can get involved, wanting to donate plants and I can't wait to see the wonderful vegetables and fruit that will be produced. It is also a great way to educate children. It gives them a focus that will also help steer them away from crime and anti-social behaviour. Then there are residents in this area who don't have a garden or only have a small yard and some who live alone. The garden really is a safe, enjoyable and quiet place for everyone living in the local community.*"

PCC for Cheshire, John Dwyer, said: "*I am so pleased that my office was able to secure £550,000 Government funding for these projects. I have been impressed with what they have achieved but an interesting additional bonus has been the way the community has come together to make this a reality.*"

Warrington South MP Andy Carter said: "*Creating a much-loved green space forms a key part of My Plan for Warrington South, to level up all through the creation of thriving and resilient communities in every part of the town. The benefits of green spaces - no matter their size - are well-known. This community allotment will help to shape local identity, help people overcome social isolation and create a sense of belonging in the places we call home and it's great to see families, young and 'not so young' coming together to make a real difference to the area*".

Man charged in connection with burglary series in Widnes

Officers investigating a series of burglaries in the Widnes area have charged a man.

Kyle Andrews, 29, of Queen Street, Orrell was charged with burglary and theft. Andrews was remanded and appeared at Warrington Magistrates Court on Wednesday 30 June. He entered no plea and was further remanded to appear at Liverpool Magistrates Court on 28 July.

Two charged in connection with aggravated burglary in Widnes

Detectives investigating an aggravated burglary in Widnes have charged two people.

Stephen Skelhorne, 36, of no fixed abode but of Widnes was arrested and charged on suspicion of aggravated burglary, possession of a bladed article and going equipped for theft. Nicola Fargin, 41, of Bell House Road, Widnes was arrested and subsequently charged with aggravated burglary. Both were remanded to appear at Warrington Magistrates Court on Wednesday 30 June. The charges relate to an aggravated burglary at a property on Frederick Street on Sunday 27 June.

Organised crime gang jailed following series of armed robberies in Cheshire and Manchester

Six men who carried out a series of armed robberies at convenience stores across Cheshire and Greater Manchester have been jailed for more than 50 years.

Jack Yarwood, Michael Burke, Stuart Watson, Daniel Adamson, Michael Kedie, and Connor Kedie, were all members of an organised crime gang based in Greater Manchester. Their crime spree began on Sunday 12 May when they targeted a CO-OP store in Lymm. Over the next seven months the gang went on to commit a further 27 armed robberies at stores across Cheshire and Manchester. They targeted stores shortly before they were due to close, with the intent of stealing as much money as possible, along with large quantities of cigarettes. On each occasion the gang travelled to the stores in stolen cars.

One member of the gang would wait in the car while the other offenders entered the stores armed with machetes and threatened staff, demanding that they hand over cash and cigarettes. During one incident in Warrington a shop worker was dragged across the floor by her feet.



Detectives from Cheshire Constabulary linked the men to four robberies in Warrington and Lymm through forensic, ANPR and CCTV evidence. They also worked closely with colleagues at Greater Manchester Police to link the men to a further 24 incidents in Greater Manchester. As well as the armed robberies at business premises, detectives also linked the gang to an incident on Thursday 16 June where they stormed a house on Dunham Road, Warburton. After breaking into the home, they locked a mother and her two children in a cupboard whilst they raided the house, stealing expensive watches and jewellery. The gang's crime spree was brought to an end on Thursday 21 November 2019, when officers from Greater Manchester Police executed simultaneous search warrants at the offenders' homes in Greater Manchester. During the raids officers recovered two stolen cars that were used in the robberies. They also seized a number of weapons, including a machete, a meat cleaver and items of clothing.

Five members of the gang subsequently pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery, while Connor Kedie pleaded guilty to assisting an organised crime gang. The gang returned to Manchester Crown Court on

Tuesday 29 June for sentencing. At the hearing the Judge praised the investigations teams at both Cheshire Constabulary and Greater Manchester Police. He also directed that the officers be awarded Chief Constables commendations. The individual prison sentences they received were:

- Jack Yarwood, 20/12/85, of Regent Place, Water Street, Salford, was jailed for life with a minimum of 10 years and 42 days for conspiracy to commit robbery.
- Michael Burke, 06/04/1981, of Winchester Road, Trafford, was jailed for life, with a minimum of 15 years and 3 months for conspiracy to commit robbery.
- Stuart Watson, 15/04/1981, of Kingsway Park, Trafford, was jailed for life with a minimum of 8 years and 10 months for conspiracy to commit robbery.
- Daniel Adamson, 21/01/1986, of Hurst Avenue, Sale, was jailed for life, with a minimum of 11 years and 1 days for conspiracy to commit robbery.
- Michael Kedie, 20/02/1991, of Magnolia Court, Sale, was jailed for 12 years and 3 months for conspiracy to commit robbery.
- Connor Kedie, 30/04/1998, of Rookfield Avenue, Sale, was handed a 12 month suspended sentence for assisting an OCG.



Following the sentencing DS Rob Massey, who led the investigation into the robberies in Cheshire, said: "*I am delighted that these men are now behind bars facing the consequences of their actions in the form of significant prison sentences. Their convictions and sentencing marks the conclusion of what has been a lengthy and complex investigation into a series of robberies which spanned across numerous police forces across the North West. Over a seven-month period the gang went to great lengths to plan and carry out 28 armed robberies at convenience stores across the region. All of the businesses targeted provide essential services to local communities, and the robberies have had a profound effect on the owners and their staff. I hope that the conclusion of this case provides reassurance to all of the victims and allows them to move forward with their lives. The message is clear, if you come to Cheshire to commit crime, you will be caught and you will be brought to justice.*"

DS Richard Castley, from GMP's SOCG, said: "*This was a series of terrifying incidents that saw staff members and members of the public in their own homes assaulted and scared for their lives - some of them still haven't returned to work and are some are still recovering from their ordeal. Staff were threatened with machetes and knives, dragged along the floor and manhandled. A family were targeted in their own address, assaulted and threatened with machetes and were fearing for their lives. The members of the public targeted by these offenders were simply doing their job to serve the public in their local shop or were in their home addresses when they were confronted with this masked gang armed with weapons. Their robbery spree days are now over after our thorough investigation and this sends out a message - no matter how organised and sophisticated a group is - we will track offenders down and bring them to justice.*"

DCI Clare Coleman added: "*As a result of the excellent work conducted by the dedicated team of detectives here at Cheshire Constabulary, along with the work of our colleagues at Greater Manchester Police, this*

crime spree has now been brought to an end. This case demonstrates that criminals do not stop when they reach the border. It is more important than ever that we work closely with our partners to ensure that such criminals are brought to justice."

- 1 - 12/05/19 - Coop, Lymm
- 2 - 19/05/19 Coop, Bowden
- 3 - 26/05/19 Asda Petrol Station, Sale
- 4 - 07/06/19 - Coop, Sale
- 5 - 19/06/19 - One Stop Shop, Wigan
- 6 - 25/06/19 -Coop, Stretford
- 7 - 27/06/19 - McColls, Sale
- 8 - 30/04/19 - Coop, Chadderton
- 9 - 11/07/19 - Coop, Sale
- 10 - 11/07/19 - One Stop Shop, Warrington
- 11 - 18/07/19 - McColls, Warrington
- 12 - 04/08/19 - Coop, Sale
- 13 - 22/08/19 - McColls, Leigh
- 14 - 26/08/19 - McColls, Bramhall
- 15 - 26/08/19 - Coop, Warrington
- 16 - 03/09/19 - Texaco, Umston
- 17 - 03/09/19 - Tesco, Sale
- 18 - 08/09/19 - Coppice Wood Farm Public House
- 19 - 16/09/19 - House in Warburton
- 20 - 19/09/19 - Starbucks, Trafford Park
- 21 - 22/09/19 - Coop Wythenshawe
- 22 - 24/09/19 - One Stop, Sale
- 23 - 25/09/19 - Sainsburys, Altrincham
- 24 - 21/10/19 - Coop, Stretford
- 25 - 30/10/19 - Coop, Stretford
- 26 - 10/11/19 - Coop, Swinton
- 27 - 12/11/19 - Coop, Cheadle Hulme
- 28 - 20/11/19 - Poundland, Urmston
- 29 - 20/11/19 - McColls, Sale

Two men jailed for attempting to steal puppies in Warrington

Two men have been jailed after admitting conspiracy to steal puppies from a family home in Warrington following a dispute.

Shane Gabriel, 33, of Quarry Street, Padiham and Ryan Williamson, 40, of Dorset Street, Burnley appeared at Chester Crown Court on 23 June and admitted conspiracy to commit burglary and affray. They were both sentenced to 40 months in prison and were also handed a restraining order banning them from contacting the victim. At around 10pm on 4 September 2019 the two men forced their way into an address in Fearnhead and threatened the victim with a hammer in an attempt to steal a litter of puppies. They searched the house disturbing her children, and after failing to find the puppies, fled the scene.

DC Tom Ashton said: “*The two men terrified the woman and her children that evening and they are still coming to terms with their ordeal. What started as a civil dispute between two people ended up escalating to a family being traumatised, people breaking the law and subsequently being jailed. I hope this highlights that we will do everything we can to bring to justice those who break the law and makes people think of the consequences before they act. Thankfully the puppies weren’t stolen and the family can now hopefully move on in some way now that these men are behind bars for their shocking actions.*”



Shane Gabriel



Ryan Williamson

Officers praised for saving life of elderly gentleman in Warrington

Three officers in Warrington have been highly praised for helping to save the life of an elderly gentleman.

Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) Jack Wilkinson and Callum Moore were driving past Padgate Tennis and Bowling Club, shortly after 7pm on Sunday 27 June, when they spotted something was ‘going on’.

The pair diverted from their patrol route to see what was happening. When they arrived at the scene they saw an elderly gentleman being given first aid by members of the bowling club. The officers identified he was having a cardiac arrest and could see the 81-year-old was turning blue. An urgent request for ambulance to attend was made via the police radio and each officer took it in turns to commence CPR. They gave the operator clear and concise updates, told them the exact location and the best access routes which allowed other officers on patrol to come and assist them.



One of those officers was PC Jack Louis Brennan. Using his own initiative, he drove from Warrington on blue lights to the nearest defibrillator point at the University of Chester. He grabbed the machine and raced back to the scene. Jack and Callum continued to take turns doing CPR under the instructions of the defibrillator machine until ambulance arrived. The gentleman was monitored by paramedics before being taken to hospital for treatment where he remains in a stable condition.

CI Neil Drum, at Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: “*As police officers every day is unpredictable and you never know what you might be called to or come across while on duty. These three officers were incredibly quick, they immediately sprang into action to save this man’s life. They trusted their instincts when they knew something wasn’t quite right and used their local knowledge of where the defibrillator machines were, which certainly helped to give him the chance of life that he now has. Their actions are highly commendable. They should be extremely proud of what they did as I know their colleagues, and the force are proud of them.*”

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Police appeal for information following serious collision on the A34 Handforth

Police are appealing for witnesses following a collision on the A34 in Handforth.

Just after 1pm on Thursday 1 July a report was received of a collision involving a white and blue Suzuki motorbike and a white Ford Transit van on the A34 between the Polar Ford roundabout and the Tesco Handforth Dean roundabout on the northbound carriageway. The rider of the motorbike, a 47-year-old man, was taken to hospital with life-threatening injuries. His condition is described as stable. Enquiries remain ongoing and police are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the collision take place and appealing for dashcam footage that could assist with enquiries. Anyone with any information is urged to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 1026734 or report it via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> Information can also be reported to Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or report it via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>

Appeal for information following burglary at bakery near Northwich.

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a burglary at a bakery in Cuddington.

Shortly before 11pm on Thursday 1 July police were called to reports that unknown offenders had forced entry into Chatwins Bakery on Norley Road. The offenders had then fled the scene in a black Audi S3 Quattro. Police were dispatched to the area and a short time later the vehicle was spotted on the A49, Warrington Road. Officers attempted to stop the car, but the vehicle made off at speed, travelling towards Runcorn through Norley and Frodsham. The car was subsequently found abandoned near to Beechwood Avenue in the Beechwood area of Runcorn. Officers, supported by the police helicopter, conducted a search of the area but were unable to find any trace of the suspects.

DC Paul Matchett from Northwich Proactive CID said: *"Enquiries in relation to this incident are ongoing and we are committed to doing all we can to trace those responsible. As part of our investigation we are keen to hear from anyone who was in Cuddington at time incident and believes they may have any information which may aid our investigation. The same goes for anyone in the Beechwood area of Runcorn who believes they may have seen the offenders fleeing the area after they abandoned the Audi near Beechwood Avenue. We would also like to hear from anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage of the burglary, or the offenders fleeing the scene in Beechwood."*

Anyone with any information is asked to call Cheshire police on 101 quoting IML 1027168, or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/cor/tell-us-about-existing-case-report/>. Information can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Police appeal for witnesses following jewellery shop burglary

Police are appealing for witnesses following a burglary at a jewellers in Nantwich.

Sometime between 5pm on Saturday 26 June and 9am on Monday 28 June a burglary took place at Hollins and Hollinshead in Beam Street, Nantwich. Thieves left with a number of items.

DC Mitch Allford said: "As part of our enquiries we're looking to speak to anyone who spotted suspicious behaviour in the area between these times. If you were driving past and caught anything on your dashcam or have any information that may help us find those responsible, please contact us."

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire police on 101 or via the [website](#) quoting IML 1024198. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information after moped stolen during Runcorn robbery

Detectives are appealing for information from the public after a moped was stolen during a robbery in Runcorn.

Shortly before 6pm on Sunday 27 June the victim, a 17-year-old local boy, was riding his moped, blue Suzuki 110, along Palacefields Avenue with his friend on the back of the bike. As the pair approached the bus stop near to Hanover Court they noticed three unknown men who were running towards them. One of the men chased his friend, while the other two men threatened the victim and demanded that he handed over his moped. The pair then rode off in the direction of the bus lane. While no knives were seen during the incident, the men claimed to be armed. The first suspect was described as a white man, of skinny build, around 5' 6" tall, with short black curly hair and a moustache. He had a local accent and was wearing dark clothing. The second suspect was also a man, he was around 5'9" to 5'10" tall and of average build. He was also wearing dark clothing along with a blue face mask.



DC Faye Taylor, from Runcorn Local Policing unit, said: "*This investigation is in its early stages and we are committed to doing all we can to trace the people responsible. As part of our enquiries we are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident, or anyone with any information which may aid our investigation. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage of the incident. We're also keen to hear from anyone who believes they know the whereabouts of the stolen bike.*"

Anyone with any information is asked to call Cheshire police on 101 quoting IML 1023795, or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/cor/tell-us-about-existing-case-report/>. Information can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Julia Griffiths (Chair), Joan Gibbison (Treasurer), Graham Bushill (Secretary), Heather Thompson, Dave Brown, Clare Harrison

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